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Docherty denies telling lies in High Court

Tommy Docherty, the football manager, lied while giving evidence at the High Court, it was alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Paul Purnell, for the prosecution, said Mr Docherty told "deliberate lies" on oath to persuade the jury that he was a faithful employee and served the best interests of Manchester United Football Club.

Mr Docherty, charged in his full name of Thomas Henderson Docherty, denied two charges of perjury.

Mr Purnell told the jury that Mr Docherty was "a person that some of you may know", and said the jury would be looking at words copied from a High Court action.

"The prosecution say that during a High Court action in 1978 Mr Docherty told lies while giving evidence in respect of that matter. As you would expect, while giving evidence he was a witness upon oath. In particular, he gave evidence which was untrue evidence on two important instances."

Mr Purnell went on: "At the root of that High Court action was a question raised by the defence in that case, as to the proper good conduct of Mr Docherty while he was a manager for the Manchester United Football Club."

"In the course of that action, where the conduct of Mr Docherty as manager of Manchester United was the issue, the prosecution allege that he told those lies for a particular purpose. They were done for the purpose of persuading the jury that Mr Docherty was a faithful employee and served the best interests of that football club. Whereas, in fact, as the prosecution hope to prove, they were deliberate lies in order to give the civil proceedings a tone to which they were not justified."

Mr Docherty, aged 53, is accused of committing perjury in November, 1978, in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court while giving evidence as plaintiff in an action against Mr William Morgan and Granada Television.

He is alleged to have falsely sworn that he told the former footballer, Denis Law, that he would discuss the player's free transfer with the board of Manchester United, and that Mr Law did not seem disturbed or surprised by the news.

Mr Docherty is also alleged to have falsely sworn that he did not know of a term in a contract between Bournemouth Football Club and Manchester United under which United would pay a further sum to Bournemouth when a striker, Ted McDougall, had scored 20 goals, until United were sued for breach of contract.

Mr Purnell told the jury of a television programme called "Kick Off", broadcast by Granada Television in which prominent people in the football world "expressed their opinions plainly".

"On January 14, 1977, the programme included an interview with Willie Morgan, a former Manchester United player. The spark which started the whole of the behaviour as a manager which eventually led to this court were remarks which he made about Docherty."

"He said that Docherty was the worst football manager there had ever been, and he described parts of Docherty's behaviour as a manager which were clearly deprecating the way he had been the football manager at Manchester United."

Mr Purnell said Mr Morgan's words were bound seriously to affect Mr Docherty's standing as a football manager.

The trial continues today.

RAF fly in danger zone, say farmers

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

The Ministry of Defence is to be told that RAF pilots are disregarding instructions that prohibit flying within a two-mile radius of one of Britain's oldest nuclear power stations.

The complaints are being made by farmers whose flocks of hardy Welsh sheep roam the sparse mountain pastures near Trawsfynydd power station, in North Wales.

According to the farmers and their shepherds, the supersonic aircraft pass close to the station as they practise the manoeuvres that would take them below enemy radar in wartime. Thundering out of the low cloud, the high-technology aircraft, according to witnesses, stream uncomfortably close to the station before accelerating away over the mountains close by.

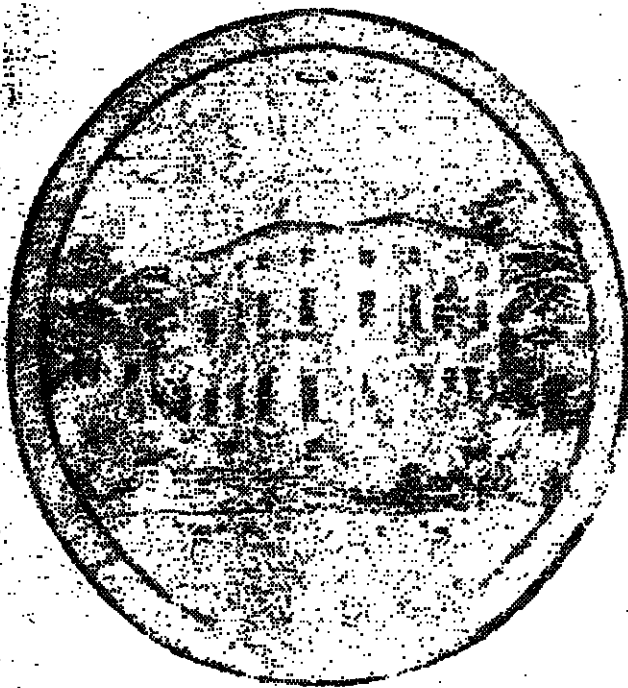
Mr J. Dyer James, secretary of the Merioneth branch of the Farmers' Union of Wales, said: "My members have seen these aircraft well within the prohibited area and are concerned about public safety. It would be horrific if one of the aircraft hit the building."

Mr James Sylvester, the deputy secretary, said complaints were made to the ministry about a year ago, but he was unaware of the latest incidents.

Once a year the staff at the power station undergo a full-scale emergency drill, when it is assumed that a disaster such as a crashing aircraft has befallen the plant.

The area, part of which was used as a mock-up of the Mekong Delta by American pilots during the Vietnam war, is a favourite venue for low-flying exercises. Some farmers have claimed that aircraft have flown at night only 100ft above the station.

Low level flying by aircraft capable of delivering nuclear payloads has led to successful claims for damages by farmers in the area for aborted livestock and disturbed poultry.



Broken plate: Barlaston Hall, as it was in 1942, featured on a Wedgwood wall plaque, and as it is now.

Mounting a monumental rescue for a ruined mansion

From John Young, Planning Reporter, Barlaston

The October gale howls through the windowless casements of Barlaston Hall. Rain deluges through gaping holes in the roof. An upstairs shutter bangs eerily but no one can reach to secure it, because the room has no floor, other than a skeleton of rotting joists.

Restoration of this eighteenth century mansion, which is listed grade I but has been left to rot for more than 13

years, is perhaps the most ambitious project of its kind ever undertaken.

"It is in no worse state than the Grange was", Mr Marcus Binney, chairman of Save Britain's Heritage, says cheerfully, omitting to add that the Grange, in Hampshire, was never restored but left as a "romantic ruin".

It was Save Britain's Heritage that last week bought Barlaston for a nominal £1

from the Wedgwood Pottery group, thus cutting short a public inquiry into the company's second application to demolish it. For its first venture into ownership, it could hardly have chosen a more daunting task.

The house is in an appalling state. Ceilings, walls, floors and stairways have collapsed in great heaps of rubble. Roof beams and joists hang at precarious angles.

To make things worse, it stands on a coalfield and subsidence has caused large vertical cracks to appear in the outside walls. The organization's first task will be to settle the question of compensation with the National Coal Board and then to use the money to install a concrete "raft" at cellar level to ensure that future subsidence is uniform.

At the inquiry, the cost of underpinning was variously put at anything between £140,000 and £600,000. Mr Binney estimates that subsequent restoration will cost £250,000 but that the seven flats into which the house will be converted will together fetch about £350,000. Grants will also be sought from the Historic Buildings Council and the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Council blamed for centenary flop

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

A call has been made to suspend Liverpool Council over the scandal of a centenary show which lost £278,000. Mr Ronald Gould, a Conservative councillor, yesterday demanded that he and his colleagues be suspended after the auditor's report laid a

large part of the blame for the fiasco on the council.

The two-week event at Camp Hill, Woolton, in June last year, organised by Liverpool's Education Department, was planned to be self-financing. Councillors, headed by Mr

Gould, demanded an inquiry into the disastrous event when it was revealed that the city had not approved much of the spending. A working party was set up, and in January Mr Kenneth Antcliffe, the educational director, was suspended.

Early Stern hearing

The Court of Appeal yesterday ordered an early hearing of an appeal against the refusal of a London Bankruptcy Court registrar to allow three creditors to question Mr William Stern, a former property magnate, about his lifestyle as a bankrupt.

An application by Mr Stern for discharge from his £118m bankruptcy in 1978 was adjourned in August pending the appeal. The creditors are Keyser Ullmann, claiming £20m, the Crown Agents, claiming £40m and First National Bank of Chicago, claiming £1m.

Whitehall brief

Reforms are making an impact

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Kenneth Sharp, former justice of the peace, Territorial Army officer and member of the Cumbrian professional community, has a dream. He wants to infiltrate every nook and cranny of Whitehall with one of his own kind.

Mr Sharp, an engaging, fluent, 54-year-old of great charm, is not some sinister KGB spy-master planting "moles", but head of the Government Accountancy Service who, from his base at the Department of Industry in Victoria Street, tramps Whitehall proselytizing, as he puts it, in other ministries about the need to employ more of his people and to make use of their skills as a routine contribution to policy-making.

Raw statistics show he has achieved considerable success since he took up his post in 1975. Lumping public service accountants together to include the Exchequer and Audit Department and the District Audit Service with Whitehall, the number of accountants rose from 831 in 1975 to 1,055 in 1981, an increase of 27 per cent over a period in which central government manpower generally has been falling.

But Mr Sharp has not yet reached the promised land of his vision. To enable accountants to penetrate the government machine successfully to the point where practically every principal finance officer has an accountancy background, he wants to disband the separate professional accountant class, and to move its officials into the Civil Service's administration group, where they will join those already there in a new functional specialism.

That was Mr Sharp believes, given time, he can dramatically improve on the 29 accountants now at assistant secretary level or equivalent, and the six in the open structure which embraces the

top three ranks of the Civil Service.

Taking stock of his six-year crusade in conversation recently, Mr Sharp said: "We are winning. We are on the way to a big reform."

During his appearance before the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee in June, an MP told Mr Sharp: "I do not quite understand what powers you possess."

He replied: "I can answer that in one word: none. How, then, has he moved his dream towards reality? Mainly by the energetic lobbying of a committee of permanent secretaries commissioned to consider the future of Civil Service accountants. He has been helped, too, by the priority afforded financial management and the achievement of value for money by the Thatcher administration."

But the Sharp charm has not worked everywhere. Like a heckler interrupting a street corner evangelist with loud raspberries, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, the union representing the 384 officials in the professional accountant class (the bulk of the 278 in the

administration group are looked after by the Society of Civil and Public Servants which is well disposed towards the Sharp plan) has denounced his scheme as misguided.

Far from strengthening the position of accountants, the government maintains to uproot them from their separate class would mean a loss of identity and their disappearance into the mists of the vast administration group. Unlike government economists and statisticians, who have their own distinct services, accountants are still treated as artisans by expensively educated senior administrators, the argument runs.

The only remedy is to build up the Government Accountancy Service by paying salaries that will attract good people from the private sector and giving them access to many more senior posts, an assistant secretary level and above.

The institution tends to see Mr Sharp as a fast-talking, immensely plausible man who is selling their birthright. For his part, Mr Sharp says he is still well disposed towards the union and hopes it will take part in final negotiations on his new scheme to protect its members' interests before the move into the administration group takes place on July 1, 1982.

Mr Sharp is convinced that his reform will triumph eventually. He believes there is a head of steam behind it from ministers, permanent secretaries and the middle ranks of the Civil Service. He has two years to go before his contract expires, much too short a span for him to know whether his plan of well-timed infiltration has worked.

"Whether I have been successful cannot be judged until I see whether my successor's successor is successful", he says.

MAN LEAPT TO DEATH FROM HOTEL

Mr James Childs, an electrical engineer, telephoned his former girl friend and told her to watch him leap to his death from an hotel, an inquest was told yesterday. As the girl looked out from the Shell office at Stanner House, Birmingham, she saw him jump from the window of an hotel room, it was said. The inquest at Birmingham was told that she had telephoned back to the Holiday Inn hotel in Paradise Circus in the hope that staff could stop him, but they failed to find him in time.

Mr Childs fell to his death on Friday. He had been at work the day before, a friend of the family said. He was divorced and had been living in various hotels.

The inquest was adjourned for further inquiries.

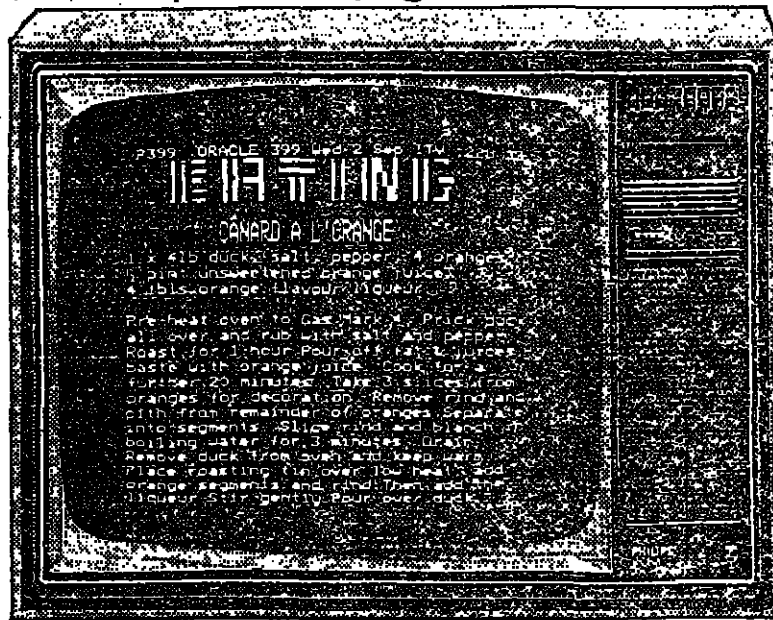
MURDER CHARGE. Ian Newton, aged 35, painter, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody for a week yesterday at Oxford, Herefordshire charged with the murder of a girl aged 12 found dead outside a block of flats on Friday.



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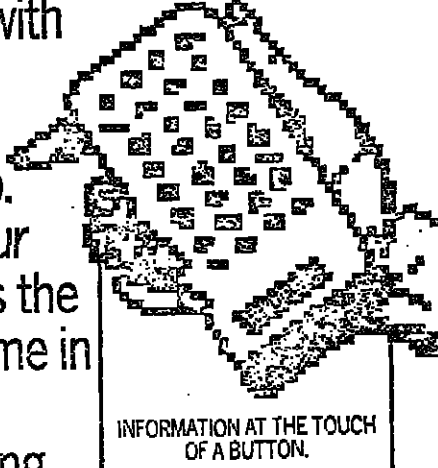
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Whitelaw faces inquiry call over case of Sikh priest

From Our Correspondent, Bradford

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is to be asked to hold an inquiry into the case of a Sikh priest who was released by Bradford magistrates yesterday so that he could return to India after having been held in custody for a week.

The priest, Sewa Singh, aged 37, of the Guru Nanak Sikh temple, Bradford, had been disgraced and the city's Sikh community upset, the magistrates were told.

Mr Singh's solicitor, Mr Norman Hopwood, said the priest was arrested for being in Britain illegally after an informer told police Mr Singh was due to fly home when he was arrested.

Mr Hopwood asked the magistrates to let Mr Singh leave "with dignity" rather than be deported.

He said local Sikhs were prepared to accept responsibility for buying his airline ticket and ensuring that he left the country. They were upset by what had happened.

Mr Singh was said to have received temporary permission to stay on in Britain

to carry out religious ceremonies, including marriages, until a full-time priest arrived. He stayed on longer than was allowed.

Mr Hopwood said there had been an appeal by Mr Singh who admitted overstaying his time limit, but there was a delay in the Home Office considering the deliberations of the adjudicator.

Mr Neville Cox, chairman of the Bench, said the court would make an unusual decision for an unusual case. Sentence would be deferred for a week for local Sikhs to arrange his departure before the weekend. The magistrates would be prepared to sentence him in his absence.

After the hearing Mr Tim Whitfield, Bradford's senior community relations officer, referred to "a catalogue of errors" and said the case had damaged relationships

between the local Sikh community and police. He said he would be writing to the Home Secretary to ask for an inquiry into the actions of the police, who he felt had acted hastily, and the Home Office.

Repatriation plan a gross insult, immigrants say

A call by the right-wing Conservative Monday Club for a multi-million pound programme to repatriate 100,000 coloured people a year from Britain was described yesterday as bribery and a gross insult by leaders of the West Indian and Asian communities.

The club's 10-point resettlement scheme, which seems certain to be a source of at least mild embarrassment to the party leadership at this week's conference, envisages coloured people being offered £5,000 or more to return to their "home" countries.

The offer would be open to all coloured people, including those whose parents or grandparents were born in Britain, leaders of the club made clear yesterday.

The cost, likely to be at least £500m to £600m a year, would form part of the overseas aid budget, with diplomatic pressure being brought to bear on possibly reluctant receiving countries.

Such a scheme would be coupled with an immediate end to new immigration from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan.

Mr Harvey Proctor, MP for Basildon and joint author of

the policy paper, described the scheme as a sensible contribution to restoring race relations in Britain.

He said the British had shown incredible tolerance at past levels of immigration but he foresaw a white backlash unless it was curbed. He sought many coloured people would be attracted by the scheme.

"There is clearly a large body of opinion among immigrants who would be very interested in a scheme to assist their passage back because of what they see as their prospects in remaining. But some people are almost too frightened to say so."

Asked if the aim of the plan was to get fewer black and brown faces on the streets, he replied that it was.

The principle of assisted repatriation, which Mr Proctor said had been Conservative policy since the early 1960s, was accepted officially but the present scheme was a reluctant concession, he added.

France and Germany were mounting similar operations, and the return of thousands of small businessmen with money and entrepreneurial flair would be a very consider-

able contribution to Britain's overseas aid effort.

The Monday Club scheme was immediately described as a very cheap offer by Mr William Trant, chairman of the West Indian Standing Conference.

"Britain owes a great deal more to the West Indian community here than it is presently prepared to admit. It is a gross insult for black people to be offered that sort of bait to create a purist white society in the United Kingdom," Mr Trant said.

Black people who intended to return to the Caribbean would do so without any inducement. "But I am not saying there are not small sections who find it extremely difficult to survive in the present economic climate."

Mr Kanti Nagda, secretary of the Confederation of Indian Organizations, said the suggestion that many people would be attracted by the sums mentioned was absolutely wrong.

"Coloured people have made this country their home," he added. "They want to be part of it. The question of resettlement does not appeal at all."



Detention for glue-sniffer who slew grandmother

From Our Correspondent, Cardiff

Neville Waite, a schoolboy aged 16, was convicted yesterday of murdering his grandmother after he had been sniffing glue. He smashed her skull with a poker and dumped her into a bath of scalding water in an attempt to conceal his crime.

The boy attacked Mrs Emma Waite, a widow, aged 76, as she sat in a rocking chair watching television at her council flat.

Yesterday a jury at Cardiff Crown Court reached the unanimous verdict of guilty of murder. Mr Justice Kenneth Jones sentenced the boy to be detained at her Majesty's pleasure. Her long and painful detention will depend upon those in charge of her.

The boy had told the court that he went to his grandmother's flat in Ffordy Gwynedd, Kenfig Hill, Mid Glamorgan, to steal money soon after sniffing glue. He said he needed the cash to buy more glue. Mrs Waite had come home before he could take it.

He told police in a statement "I don't know what came over me. It must have been the glue. I loved her. I don't know why I hit her."

He wept as he told the court how he dragged her unconscious body from the sitting room into the bathroom. There he toppled her into the bath before filling it with boiling water. After the killing he fled, taking some banknotes from her purse.

Inquest on death in care of police draws picket

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Winston Rose, aged 27, the mentally disturbed man who died while in the care of the police on his way to mental hospital in July had difficulty in breathing just before his death, a coroner's inquest heard yesterday.

Professor Keith Simpson, the pathologist who conducted the post-mortem examination, said that three things: an obstruction to the mouth or nose; pressure on the neck; or pressure to the chest.

He said there was intense engorgement of the dead man's lungs and discoloration of his blood through lack of oxygen. The death of Mr Rose, a former boxer, who Professor Simpson said was in good health at the time of death and who lived in Elm Road, Leytonstone, east London, has aroused concern in the black community.

There was a picket outside Walthamstow Town Hall as the inquest started yesterday. Leaflets were distributed by the Winston Rose Action Committee, and the public gallery was full of black people.

A total of 52 witnesses are being called by Dr Harold Price, the coroner. Twelve gave evidence yesterday before a jury of 10, four of whom are black. They will have to decide how Mr Rose died on July 13 last.

Mr Rose met his death after a struggle with 11 policemen who had been called by a Waltham Forest social worker to take him to Claybury psychiatric hospital. Mr Rose, who spent a month compulsorily detained in Claybury in 1979, had refused to go.

The police said afterwards that Mr Rose died after choking on his own vomit.

CURB URGED ON RESALE OF HOMES

By Our Planning Reporter

More widespread restrictions on the resale of council houses in rural areas are called for today by Rural Voice, an association which includes the National Farmers' Union, the Country Land-owners' Association and the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers.

In a report on rural housing initiatives, Rural Voice points out that although tenants in rural areas have the same right to buy their homes as those anywhere else, restrictions on those to whom they may resell apply only in very limited districts.

The report cites as examples the district of Allerdale, in Cumbria, where there is a very high demand from commuters and others for homes close to the Lakes, and east Hampshire, where prices in the smaller villages are "incredibly high" but where council policies strictly limit new development.

At least £100m a year needs to be spent on a programme of building and improvements to cure Scotland's severe housing problems, a report published yesterday states (the Press Association reports).

The report, prepared by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, sets out to shatter what it describes as the complacent view of successive governments that Scotland no longer has a mass housing shortage.

There are 104,000 homes in Scotland below the tolerable standard, 30,000 tenement flats without bathrooms in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and more than 2,000 people living in homes that are physically handicapped who should not be there, the report says.

At the very least, it concludes, £100m a year is needed to meet the annual housing association programme built up over the past six years in response to Government targets.

The report says national housing associations are Scotland's main providers of sheltered homes for the elderly and disabled.

Police federation chief fined

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The chairman of the Police Federation, Mr James Jardine, was convicted yesterday of driving without due care after Cheltenham magistrates heard that he drove on to a main road in the town and crashed into another car.

Mr Jardine, aged 53, pleaded not guilty, said road markings at the A40 junction were confusing. He was fined £20, had his licence endorsed and was ordered to pay £44 costs.

Mr Jardine said he was driving to a federation meeting when he was in collision with a car driven by a former driving instructor, Mr Patrick Pittaway. "I accept now that I should have been more aware but I thought I was on a roundabout and had the right of way," he said.

Mr David Leahy, for the defence, said it was significant that the road markings had been improved since the accident.

Mr Jardine had a clean licence after 37 years' driving.

Mother locked up over a 'technicality'

From Our Correspondent Dunfermline

A father said yesterday that he would ask his MP to investigate why his wife was locked up for two days over a minor road traffic offence.

Mrs Melinda Coutts saw her five year old daughter taken screaming from a police cell. And after 47 hours in custody Mrs Coutts, aged 28 of Daphne Crescent, Parkside, Seaham, co Durham, was admonished at Dunfermline Sheriff Court for what her agent described as a "technicality".

Mr William Coutts said later, "after what my two children witnessed at Musselburgh police station and the nightmares my daughter Laura has had since, I will be asking my MP to investigate the shocking treatment my family have had. I shall also be contacting the National Council for Civil Liberties".

In court Mrs Coutts's agent, Mr John Fotheringham, said: "Mrs Coutts has no criminal record whatever and has not even been convicted of a driving offence".

Mrs Coutts was stopped on a routine check in Cowdenbeath, Fife on June 18 last. She did not have her insurance certificate and was asked to produce it to the police at Musselburgh, Lothian, where she then lived, within six days.

Mr Fotheringham said: "In May Mrs Coutts had paid her annual premium of £69. Just before this she had been involved in an accident and had a claim against her insurance".

"When she went to get her certificate her brokers said they could not issue it until she had paid an additional £31."

"This she did and they issued her with a cover note. She did not realize it did not

cover the day she was stopped in Cowdenbeath until she was at Musselburgh police station. The police led her to believe that if her story was true then further proceedings were unlikely."

"I have checked out Mrs Coutts's story with her brokers and it is correct."

"In the interval Mrs Coutts and her family moved to co Durham and she never received a summons. Last Saturday on a visit to her mother-in-law in Edinburgh she stopped off at Musselburgh police station on another matter and was arrested."

Sheriff George Evans admonished Mrs Coutts, who admitted a charge of driving in Cowdenbeath without insurance.

Afterwards, Mrs Coutts said: "I thought my insurance brokers had sorted the whole matter out. I just could not believe the police were going to lock me up. The children were terribly upset. Laura had to be dragged from my arms. She was screaming."

Her husband added: "The children and I were told to go into the police station and we were allowed to see her in what looked like a police cell. I left to get her some cigarettes and when I returned I had to drag Laura away."

Mrs Coutts's case first came before Dunfermline Sheriff Court on September 17, when the Deputy Fiscal, Mrs Katharine-Anne Petrie, told the court again on September 30, when a warrant was granted for Mrs Coutts's arrest.

Dunfermline's Procurator Fiscal, Mrs James Douglas said yesterday: "There is no reason why discretion should not have been used and Mrs Coutts released on bail to appear today."

Lords conservationists set for final attack on Bill

By John Young, Planning Reporter

A final attempt is to be made in the House of Lords on Thursday, with strong all-party support, to force through what is seen as a vital amendment to the Wildlife and Countryside Bill.

The aim is to alter clauses 31 and 32, which say they now stand would entitle farmers to automatic compensation whenever they are refused grants for agricultural improvement schemes on the ground that they would adversely affect natural beauty, wildlife or amenity.

After months of debate and the tabling of hundreds of minutes, the crucial "show-down" between farmers and conservationists has narrowed down above all to this one issue. Supporters of the amendment claim that not only the future of large tracts of cherished countryside is at stake, but also millions of pounds of public money.

The two clauses in the Bill, which have government approval, state that national park authorities or the Nature Conservancy Council may object to grants for improvement schemes within national parks or sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

But within six months the authorities must offer to enter into so-called management agreements with the applicants, which would entail compensation payments.

The Lords amendment would give the authorities discretion about entering into manage-

ment agreements, but could not oblige them to do so. If no such agreement was offered, a farmer would lose his entitlement to compensation for theoretical loss of profits.

The amendment has been tabled by Lord Buxton (Con) and Lord Onslow (Lab), Lord Hunt (SDP) and Lady White (Lab).

It has been endorsed by the Association of County Councils, the Countryside Commission, the Association of National Park Officers, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and the Council for National Parks.

The RSPB said yesterday that if the Bill became law protection of one site alone, the Nene Washland, near Peterborough, might cost up to £200,000 in compensation.

Lord Onslow gave an example of a friend who farmed in the Yorkshire Dales national park, and who had calculated that if he applied to "sing and lime" 15,000 acres of grouse moor, to convert it to grassland, he would under the Bill be entitled to £300,000 a year in compensation if his application was refused.

"If the Bill is passed as it is, it will either produce the biggest shock in history or, far more likely, it will mean that the park authorities and the NCC will feel unable to object to schemes, and conservation will simply go by the board," Lord Onslow said.

Civil Service unions fear government pay device

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Government will this week submit its evidence to the independent inquiry into Civil Service pay, which is likely to give an indication of the stance Mrs Margaret Thatcher will adopt in the approaching pay negotiations with Britain's 530,000 white collar civil servants.

Such a move would be likely to meet with strong resistance from the nine unions, and senior officials yesterday doubted whether the practical difficulties in introducing regional or grading differentials can be overcome before the April 1 settlement date.

Union leaders believe that the Government may try to introduce an element in the pay offer to reflect market forces, such as higher pay for jobs facing staff shortages.

The unions will be anxious to examine the government submission to the inquiry, headed by Sir John Megaw, a former High Court judge, which is expected to be published later this week. They realize that Mrs Thatcher is determined to continue the policy of reducing what she sees as privileges enjoyed by civil servants.

Civil Service Department negotiators have made clear on several occasions that the Government wants to see a move away from the present highly structured system of grading to a more flexible system in certain areas, such as computer operating, can be rectified and that there is recognition of hard work and talent.

The government evidence to the inquiry will cover those points but its attitude to the negotiations in this year's pay round could also be influenced by whether the unions

are able to agree on a common claim. Their leaders are due to discuss that at a meeting next week and are likely to complete their own submission to the inquiry today.

Some union leaders believe that if the unions submit individual claims it will make it easier for the Government to introduce the market forces argument into the negotiations. However, both unions and government officials discount the idea of no overall increase.

The Government is committed to the agreement, which ended this year's five-month strike campaign, and will conduct the negotiations without a predetermined cash limit. Both sides will still be aware that the Government has indicated that 4 per cent is all that is available for pay increases in the public services this year.

Some union officials would like to see a common claim based on the TUC model for the public services of an increase to cover the rate of inflation, but that might meet with opposition from leaders of unions representing higher grade civil servants who are anxious to eliminate anomalies and restore differentials for senior technical and professional staff.

Christmas programmes on BBC Television could be threatened by an indefinite strike of television editors (Kenneth Godling writes).

The strike began last night and affects members of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs throughout the United Kingdom who work on the editing of video tape. The exceptions are outside broadcast members in London and members employed on television news.

Ten hospitals in charges study

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A pilot study to discover the best method of charging overseas visitors for health service care is being launched in 10 hospitals in Britain.

The Government has been committed to charging visitors for treatment since it came into office but it set up a working party to find out the fairest means after it was criticized for its plans to do so. It was claimed that only coloured people would be asked to prove they were resident in Britain.

The working party, which is headed by Mr Peter Wormald, Under-Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, and includes members of the Commission for Racial Equality and other race groups, started by surveying existing methods of charging overseas visitors.

It found that practice varied considerably between hospitals. Some took considerable pains to discover a patient's normal place of residence and to charge him if he was not entitled to free treatment. Others were more lax.

It has now recommended that a pilot study be carried out in which patients will be asked three questions: Have you lived in Britain for more than three years? Are you living permanently in Britain? Are you or your spouse working in Britain?

If the answer to all three is no, they will be asked where they normally live, whether they intend to stay in Britain for the next 12 months and whether they are a United Kingdom resident working abroad.

The hospitals involved are: Addenbrooke's, Cambridge; Hillingdon, west London; The Queen Mother's, Glasgow; Royal Gwent, Newport, South Wales; Royal Northern, north London; St Bernard's, Southall, west London; University College Hospital, central London; Warwick General Hospital, Warwick; West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds; and Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester.

The scheme to tighten up

on charging foreigners was originally due to start this autumn but was postponed to next April when the working party was set up.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, former Secretary of State for Social Services, said last March that emergencies would still be treated free of charge and that visitors would remain entitled to free treatment where reciprocal agreements existed.

Charges would also not be made to people who had come to settle, to certain migrant workers or to those who had lived in Britain for three years.

Two famous London hospitals, which attract many overseas visitors, already charge all those not normally resident in Britain. The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and the Westminster Hospital said yesterday that they ask to see a patient's passport where they suspect the person is not entitled to free treatment and ask for payment in advance.

IN BRIEF

Five women hurt in blast at flats

Five elderly women were recovering in hospital last night after an explosion in flats at a pensioners' complex at Neyland, in west Wales. Fallen masonry had to be dragged clear to free two of the women before they could be taken to hospital in Haverfordwest. One of the pensioners, Mrs Martha John, aged 82, was suffering from extensive burns.

The warden, Mrs Thelma Kavanagh, said: "The whole complex shook with the explosion and I saw two flats in ruins. I rushed over and realized two people were trapped. A lot of the other residents were screaming with panic." Gas board experts visited the scene to try to establish the cause of the explosion.

Greenland expeditions

Two 90-member expeditions to a remote part of Greenland, part of project to celebrate the British Schools Exploring Society's fiftieth anniversary, are open to 70 unemployed boys and girls aged between 16½ and 19½. The expeditions will set off in the summers of 1982 and 1983, and participants will have to help to raise the £1,400 cost themselves.

Nurses for trial

Four nurses and a former nurse from Rampton special hospital were committed for trial to Nottingham Crown Court by magistrates at Mansfield yesterday on a total of 16 charges of ill treating patients. They were remanded on bail until the hearing.

£5,000 in fines

When 12 people were fined a total of £5,000 in Birmingham yesterday for unruly behaviour at football matches, the prosecution said most of the trouble occurred at the Birmingham and West Ham game on October 3.

Real estate car

Mr Trevor Ryall is asking £35,000 for his Cortina estate car, but the extras include a house with garage and garden. He resorted to the marketing play after failing to sell his house, in Walton, Essex, in seven months.

Guard injured

Thieves yesterday broke a printing works security guard's spine while raiding Waterlow's works in Dunstable, Bedfordshire. He caught one intruder, but a second man then attacked him. Both escaped.

Brothers burnt

Gordon Clark, aged 13, and Ian Clark, aged 12, brothers of Hellingly, Sussex, were in a hospital special burns unit yesterday after sparking off an explosion by puncturing two gas cylinders they were playing with on a disused farm.



Mr Kenneth Addison: No question marks, no answers, no conviction.

Silent motorist confounds drink test procedure

From Our Correspondent, York

Kenneth Addison's lips were sealed on the night police suspected he was over the drink-driving limit. He only stared and smiled at them as they went through the procedure for obtaining samples of blood or urine.

His silence may have saved him from a driving ban yesterday, after magistrates at York decided he was not obliged to say anything to the police, and therefore under law had not refused to give specimens of blood or urine.

Mr Addison, aged 29, garage manager, of Millfield Road, York, had denied failing to give the specimens. The decision was based on the absence of question marks from form 300, which is used by North Yorkshire police in drink-driving cases.

Mr Peter Collier, for the defence, said: "If there had been question marks at the end of statements on the form then the defendant would have been obliged to answer 'yes' or 'no'."

"But there were not, so he was perfectly entitled to stand there and say nothing or wait until the police gave him the utensils for the urine specimen."

Mr Addison was arrested after sounding his horn after dark and taken to York police

station, where he allegedly failed a breath test.

Chief Inspector Barney Coleman said he had not replied when asked to provide a sample of blood. Two minutes later Police Constable Terry Smith had told him he would be required to provide two specimens of urine within an hour of the second stage of the procedure, but again he had refused to reply, and smiled and stared at the officer.

Less than a minute later Mr Addison had again been given an opportunity to provide a sample of blood, but said: "I will give urine, instead."

Because of the strict rules of procedure, PC Smith would not accept that, and told him he was not allowed to go back after each stage had been completed.

Mr Collier said the police officer was bound by the form, which did not cover all circumstances, and the police had never before been confronted with that situation.

The North Yorkshire police said: "We are calling for the papers for that case, which will be studied by the Chief Constable, who will then decide what further action to take."

The procedure had been in operation since 1968 and had been adopted by many other police forces.

You have only one life to insure. How should you choose the right company to insure it?

Before you insure your life, there's something else you really ought to ensure. For your own peace of mind, you should make certain that the insurance company you deal with is a member of one of the recognised life insurance trade associations such as The Life Offices' Association or Associated Scottish Life Offices.

Their members account for about 90% of all ordinary life insurance business written in the United Kingdom.

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The Code demands for instance that whenever a representative approaches you he makes it clear that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss life insurance. That all your dealings are treated in complete confidence. That when you take out a life policy the benefits and conditions are explained fully. And that you are not encouraged to commit yourself to premiums which you cannot afford.

2. All members of the Associations have agreed to limits on the rates of commission that may be paid to independent advisers; so you can be confident that where commission is to be paid it will not be an influencing factor in recommending a particular member company.

It's worth remembering that life insurance is probably the biggest purchase you'll ever make apart from your home.

So it's important that you get it right.

If you would like a copy of the Code of Selling Practice, or information about the booklets and educational material produced by the Associations, please write to:-

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EEC struggles to free itself from red tape

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Oct 12

The European Commission has decided there is too much red tape in the EEC. Far from binding the European Community together, it believes this is pulling it apart into too many separate packages.

In consequence the Commission has prepared a resolution for discussion by the next European Council asking it to be provided with the necessary administrative scissors to cut through as much of the red tape as possible, as quickly as possible.

Herr Karl-Hinz Narjes, the Commissioner responsible for the Community's interior market, said today: "After 23 years there is as much red tape at the borders inside the Community as ever there was. There is little difference in the formalities between trading inside the Community and trading with the outside world."

That, he said, increased the cost of exports in the Community by 5 per cent and cut into competitiveness. He said the number of disputes over customs formalities this year alone was 190 with a total of 400 outstanding from other years. That was proof that the problem was even on the increase.

In all, he said there were 55 different issues covering subjects as varied as veterinary regulations and insurance which were being held up for one reason or another by different governments.

As a token of political good will on the part of the Council, the Commission is looking for agreement on these issues as a package.

The Commission sees the Benelux union as being the prototype of the kind of community it wants to develop between Community members. According to the proposed resolution such a union "will allow the European citizen to have a better awareness of his membership to that entity represented by the Community". The regulations which the Commission wants to see rationalized involve customs and taxation methods. Simplifying value-added tax is singled out as being especially important, while a single customs document — such as the Commercial Bill — is regarded as being all that ought to be necessary for goods to cross frontiers inside the Community.

An extra 60m a year is to be set aside in the Community budget from next year to cover the new import restrictions and structural changes envisaged for the fruit and vegetable sector, the Commission has decided.

As far as olive oil is concerned the Commission has backed away from confrontation with the United States by rejecting — at least for the time being — a plan to tax vegetable oils and oil feeds entering the Community. America sells about £2,000m worth of oil a year to Europe and threatened to retaliate if the community raised tax barriers.

The need to protect European producers from cheap American oil crops will increase dramatically when Spain enters the Community.

Hitch again delays Astles trial

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Oct 12

The trial for murder of Mr Bob Astles, the British-born aide of former President Idi Amin of Uganda, was again delayed in the Uganda High Court in Kampala today. Mr Astles is charged with the murder of a Ugandan fisherman on Lake Victoria in 1977.

He has been held in prison in Kampala since being extradited from Kenya, where he fled by boat across Lake Victoria shortly before Kampala fell to advancing Tanzanian troops in 1979.

He appeared in court last week and was then remanded for another week at the request of the prosecution.

Today Mr George Emsu, the State Attorney, submitted that Mr Astles's British lawyer, Mr Philip Wilkinson, QC, was not entitled to appear because he did not have a certificate to practice law in Uganda.

Mr Wilkinson, who has been appearing in the Ugandan courts over the past 30 years, and was Attorney-General of Uganda for a few months in 1962, has now retired and lives near Peterborough.

The judge ordered a one-day adjournment to enable Mr Wilkinson to apply for a new certificate.

A British lawyer who travelled to Uganda last year to represent Mr Astles in an earlier hearing was not allowed to appear as he was not a member of the Ugandan bar.

Mr Astles denies the murder charge, which carries a sentence of death by hanging if he is found guilty.

BBC foreign service gets US backing

By Kenneth Gosting

The BBC has found a powerful ally in its fight to prevent the Government closing seven of its foreign language services and withdrawing its subsidy to the transcription services.

Mr Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has spoken against the cuts which will take effect next April unless the Cabinet changes its mind.

Mr Percy, who raised the issue in Washington last week, contrasted the proposed closures with President Reagan's stated aim to boost the Voice of America, the United States overseas radio network.

Lord Byers, Liberal leader in the House of Lords, has written to Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, about the cuts and expects a reply early this week.

Mr Percy's remarks follow hard on the heels of a visit paid to the Foreign Office recently by two senior diplomats from the United States Embassy who said they felt the damage done by the cuts would be out of proportion to the savings made.

Mr Percy repeated the point while at the same time endorsing Mrs Margaret Thatcher's overall attempt to reduce public expenditure.

The senator was sent details of the threatened services by the BBC and said afterwards that the information had caused concern "among many of those who believe that international broadcasting by the Western democracies is very important in providing objective and comprehensive news coverage to the peoples of the world".



A professional hunter battling with an 11ft alligator which had just eaten a pet dog in a suburb of New Orleans

European backing for Greek left

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Oct 12

As the Greek election campaign moved from the provinces to Athens tonight for a final week of traditional open air rallies, the Greek Government reacted sharply to the manifestations of solidarity by European Socialist leaders with the Greek Socialists, effort to win next Sunday's poll.

"France yesterday, Greece today, Spain tomorrow," was the dominant slogan in Salonika over the weekend here. Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Socialist leader, appeared on the platform used by Mr Andreas Papandreu to address a big rally of supporters of his Panhellenic Socialist movement (Pasok).

It was alleged that they met General Ali Murad, head of the Indonesian secret service, who told them that Indonesia would only accept either the continuation of Portuguese rule or the annexation of East Timor by Indonesia.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, announced today that he would ask the

Britain is implicated in Timor invasion scandal

From John Torres, Lisbon, Oct 12

The British Government has been implicated in a political scandal in Portugal. Britain, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand are alleged to have conspired with the Portuguese to encourage Indonesia to invade the Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1975.

The invasion was to prevent the establishment of a Marxist oriented Government there, a special report on television claimed.

Prominent political figures involved are said to include De Mario Soares, leader of the Socialist Party who was then Prime Minister, former President Costa Gomes, Senhor Almeida Santos, and prominent members of the Council of the Revolution.

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Ministers rebuked for servility

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Oct 12

Ten state chief ministers of Mrs Indira Gandhi's party were rebuked today for sycophancy after flying to Delhi at public expense to greet the Prime Minister on his return from a foreign journey.

"Servility is not loyalty", the *Hindustan Times* said in an editorial. "There seems to be an impression that survival is not for the fittest but for the most sycophantic. The Urvish Heaps of Indian politics are a disgrace to the nation."

Chief ministers are the heads of government in Indian states and if they are members of Mrs Gandhi's ruling Congress Party their jobs are effectively in her gift.

There was no protocol reason for 10 of the 13 Congress chief ministers to be on hand with bunches of flowers for Mrs Gandhi's arrival. As the *Times of India* noted today: "Mrs Gandhi gets irritated by hordes of her followers turning up at the airport with bouquets when they ought to be attending to their work."

Trudeau and premier try to end deadlock

From John Best, Ottawa, Oct 12

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, and Mr William Bennett, the Premier of British Columbia, met here tomorrow to try to find a way out of Canada's constitutional deadlock.

Mr Bennett is the spokesman for eight provinces opposed to the Federal Government's unilateral plan to patriate the Canadian constitution from Britain.

In a weekend television interview, Mr Bennett said that there is an "opportunity for agreement" between the provinces and Mr Trudeau. But he indicated the federal side would have to make the most of the concessions. "The biggest compromise will have to come, of course, from one side."

Since Mr Trudeau has been suggesting it is the provinces who must do the most compromising, chances of an eleventh hour agreement to achieve constitutional "patriation" by consensus are at best uncertain.

The Prime Minister still insists that he will push through parliament with minimum delay his controversial plan for bringing home the constitution, chiefly embodied in the 1982 British North America Act with an amending formula and a bill of rights added.

"We must not wait too long," he said, on his return on Friday from the Commonwealth Conference in Melbourne. "We must dispose of this question."

Final parliamentary consideration of the constitutional resolution was postponed last spring pending a ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada on its validity. The court finally ruled, last month, that the Federal Government had the legal right to proceed unilaterally, but that under firmly established convention it should obtain the consent of the provinces.

Only two of Canada's 10 provinces, Ontario and New Brunswick, support the Federal resolution in its present form. Evidence is increasing that the Prime Minister is not as sure of his position as his toughly worded statements might indicate.

He first demanded to meet all the provincial premiers at a showdown meeting tomorrow. When they objected that this was pushing things too fast, he suggested Thursday. Again the premiers balked.

Now the Prime Minister is suggesting a meeting next Thursday, the day after a scheduled meeting of the premiers in Montreal.

Just how soon the resolution can now come back before parliament, which reassembles this week after its three and a half months' summer recess, is therefore still unclear.

Prisoners of conscience



China: Liu Qing

By Caroline Moorehead

A machine technician and former editor of the unofficial journal *April Fifth Forum* is serving a three year reeducation sentence in the province of Shanxi. Liu Qing received this for his part in the Peking "democracy movement" of the late 1970s.

Liu Qing (whose real name is Liu Jianwei) was cofounder of the magazine, one of the most prominent of the unofficial papers which began appearing late in 1978. He was editor for just under a year. On November 11, 1979, he was arrested for distributing the transcripts of the trial of Wei Jingsheng, another activist in Peking's democracy movement. At the trial, Wei had just received a 15-year sentence on "political charges."

Liu Qing's sentence falls under a special category. He has neither been tried nor charged. His "reeducation through labour" punishment is administrative rather than judicial, and requires only a police order.

In October, 1980, a "National Committee to Save Liu Qing" was launched by 16 other unofficial magazines from different provinces of China. Many of those who joined the appeal were later arrested.

FRIAR HELD AFTER APPARITION

Belgrade, Oct 12. — A Roman Catholic friar has been arrested and is awaiting trial after a controversy which followed the alleged appearance of the Virgin Mary, according to the Belgrade newspaper *Vecernje Novosti* today.

The paper also said 11 people were expelled from the Communist Party and 48 others given party warnings for visiting the site of the alleged apparition in the southern town of Citluk, where six girls said they saw the Madonna in July.

Thousands of people have streamed into Citluk to visit the site, and authorities have claimed that the Roman Catholic Church is trying to use the event for political purposes.

Vecernje Novosti reported that the friar, Jozo Zovko, was in detention and awaiting trial, but did not say if he had been charged.

IN BRIEF

Estonians shout against Russians

Helsinki. — Hundreds of Estonian youths are reported to have joined an anti-Soviet demonstration after a basketball match. According to Finnish tourists who saw the demonstration, the young people shouted anti-Soviet slogans at police.

Heavy police reinforcements ended the demonstration after 45 minutes. Troops were also called in but they remained in their vehicles. Several people were arrested.

Nigerians on card

Lagos. — Nigeria is to introduce identity cards for all citizens over the age of 18. Professor Iya Abubakar, the Minister for Internal Affairs, said in a newspaper interview.

New cardinals

Rome. — The Pope is planning to create a number of new cardinals, probably in December, to bring the Sacred College of Cardinals up to full strength, Vatican sources said.

Bush warning

Santo Domingo. — Mr George Bush, the American Vice-President, said the Soviet Union and Cuba posed the main threat to freedom in the Caribbean and Central America. He was addressing the congress of the Dominican Republic.

Hidden leader

Tokyo. — Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, spent the first day of his visit to Japan behind ranks of police guards, missing a scheduled statement on arrival and remaining within a closely guarded Tokyo hotel.

Freshening fruit

Moscow. — Vines, blackberry bushes and cherry and almond trees are the most effective natural air purifiers, Soviet scientists say. These trees and bushes are to be planted round the Georgian capital of Tbilisi to cleanse the atmosphere.

Name change

Sydney. — Captain Mark Phillips, in Melbourne to compete in a three-day equestrian event, ordered the name of his horse to be changed when he discovered it was the same as one of the companies sponsoring the event.

ADVERTISEMENT

In the interests of Fair Play, please sign this letter and send it to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London,
W1

Address

Dear Mrs Thatcher,
Legislation for Fair Play

The true role of the Government is the maintenance of law and order and the defence of the realm. Over the years, successive governments have become more and more involved in other things and at greater and greater cost. It is now time to reduce government by enacting legislation to ensure Fair Play.

The end of direct taxation

Personal income tax, company tax and rates are probably the biggest single factor in driving away from this country the most talented income producing people and companies. They should be phased out.

The end of State Social Security

Everyone who owns a car knows he needs to insure it. He does so through the insurance company that suits him best. The same principle of choice to get the best should apply to health and unemployment insurance.

Giving nationalised industries back to the nation

The nationalised industries should be turned into competing limited liability companies with shares given to the nation's tax paying population in proportion to the personal income tax each person has paid over the last three years.

Tight control of immigration

Each immigrant should be given the 'right of abode' in this country once he's earned it. Legislation for Fair Play would limit the number of immigrants from any one country to the number of British citizens granted similar rights in the immigrant's country of origin.

A British referendum on Northern Ireland

Just as the Northern Irish were asked by ballot whether or not they wished to remain a part of Britain, so the population of the UK should be asked if they want Northern Ireland to be part of the UK. If a clear majority say "No" then the Government should negotiate our independence from Northern Ireland. If the answer is "Yes", then effective action should be taken to ensure that the same standards, criteria and educational practices that apply in the UK are applied to Northern Ireland.

Law abiding, democratic trade unionism

Just as the Magna Carta applied to all men including the King, so the law that applies to you and I should also apply to the Trade Unions. Fair Play legislation would ensure that those who claim to lead the Unions are elected by the majority, and by secret ballot.

Profit sharing for all

Salaries and wages should be fixed so that management and labour can discuss how to increase profits and not bicker about (uncertain) wage increases. Profits should be divided equally between further investment, shareholders and employees.

Smaller families

Our island is crowded. The shums of today are being replaced by the shums of tomorrow. We can no longer bring our children up in the expectation that there will be work for them. Incentives should be given to limit the number of children in any one family to two.

Repealing outdated legislation

Much of our life is governed by restrictive legislation. Fair Play legislation would mean that shops, banks and pubs would stay open to suit their customers not the law. "Three gentlemen please!" does not belong in Britain in the 1980's.

Mrs Thatcher, you have demonstrated your tenacity, courage and resolve. You have the time in office to enact legislation for Fair Play and with it effect a fundamental change back to individualism and back to greater prosperity for all.

Yours sincerely,

signed by:

Issued in the interests of Fair Play by R. Bale, 456 Allerton Road, Liverpool.

Economy dominates New Zealand election Muldoon survives Melbourne

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington, Oct 12

It would be an injustice to Mr Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister, to dismiss his headline snatching performance at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference as no more than a ploy to promote a vote-winning image at home.

True, Mr Muldoon has a general election on November 28 and his ruling National Party has a fight on its hands to stay in power. But he thought it better to go to Melbourne ready to turn any attack upon New Zealand's hosting of the South African rugby visit with an arsenal of complaints about black Africa's record on human rights.

However startled the Commonwealth leaders were at his tenacity and provocations, his conduct did not greatly surprise New Zealanders. They are used to his bruising frankness. What they were witnessing was vintage Muldoonism. Half the electorate love him for it, the other half seem equally distressed by it.

It remains a moot point, therefore, whether anything he said in Australia, however outrageous and disturbing to the diplomatic niceties of those occasions, will alter the electoral balance. What he may have gained from the swings of his populist criticism of the Melbourne Declaration on aid to the underdeveloped countries he may have lost on the roundabouts of the Commonwealth isolation with which New Zealand now appears threatened.



Election challenge from Mr Wallace Rowling (top) and Mr Bruce Beetham.



Mr Muldoon can draw satisfaction from the fact that the latest opinion poll, conducted before Melbourne but during the closing stages of the controversial Springbok tour, still has him as the politician New Zealanders most want as Prime Minister.

Mr Muldoon enjoys a considerable lead over Mr Bruce Beetham, the personable leader of the Social

Credit League, a party of rising fortunes, and Mr Wallace Rowling, the low-key leader of Labour, the main opposition party.

Mr Muldoon successfully led the assault against the Labour administration in 1975. Three years later his Government was returned, though it polled fewer votes than Labour.

The present state of the parties is: National 50; Labour 40; Social Credit 2. The Government's majority is more vulnerable than these figures suggest because 10 of its seats are held by fewer than 1,000 votes.

The Government is worried about the Social Credit challenge, particularly in the rural areas where it might gain enough votes to let Labour in. The prospect of a Parliament in which Social Credit holds the balance of power is not being ruled out.

The election campaign proper begins on November 2 when Mr Muldoon fires the first shots, but electoral preoccupations are already apparent.

The Springbok tour issue and Mr Muldoon's record at Melbourne are not expected to figure prominently. The overriding issue will be the state of the economy — the 15 per cent level of inflation, the absence of growth, and unemployment figures higher than at any time since the 1930s. This is where the Government is most at risk.

Mr Muldoon was promoted in 1975 as something of an economic miracle worker but the economy, for reasons not always the Government's fault, has gone down steadily since.

THE ARTS

Television

'Brideshead': a brilliant and sensual impact

Michael Ratcliffe (below) finds the first episodes of Granada's *Brideshead Revisited* "irresistibly seductive", and Bryan Appleyard (right) talks to Sir John Gielgud, who plays Edward Ryder

Nancy Mitford, to whom Waugh sent an early copy of *Brideshead Revisited*, had only two complaints. Diamond clips were not invented before 1930, and the narrator was lacking in glamour. "He seemed to me a tiny bit dim."

I quite see how the person who tells us, but then would Julia and her brother and her sister all be in love with him if he was?" Since she herself fell exclusively in love with men her clever friends considered a tiny bit dim, she answered the question without stopping for breath. It is true that Charles Ryder rarely stands in the bright sunlight like Sebastian or Anthony Blanche, but only a first impression of *Brideshead* — which is, after all, his book — would find Charles uninteresting, and, by placing him at the front of the stage and casting Jeremy Irons in the role, Granada's script-writer (John Mortimer) and producer (Derek Granger) took the first and most important step towards what, to judge from the superb first two episodes, seems certain to be a triumph of beauty, fidelity and relevant embellishment — in short a hit. Nobody would deny Mr Irons glamour of both person and intelligence or claim he could ever give the impression of being dim. He has the actor's great gift of attentiveness and response and he communicates them so easily that when he is spellbound by Sebastian, his family and their great house, the spell binds us, too, even when Anthony Andrews immaculately (and correctly) pitches Sebastian's takes up only a few pages in the novel, but it brings the film to a pitch of visual

spirit, humour and feeling, defenceless before his father's malevolence and darkened already with premonition of loss.

The narrator's place at the heart of the drama itself is strengthened at every point by Geoffrey Burdon's score which, based on a simple four-note figure, flows and modulates between ecstasy, alarm and grief, reflecting the patterns of Charles Ryder's mind in the tone-colours of Henry Purcell, master, like Evelyn Waugh, of melancholy and the English baroque. It is rare for screen music to reflect so exactly not only what is being seen, but what is going on behind it, and to sound as if it is doing so, like Charles himself, through a screen of memory, snatching at an Arcadian dream.

It looks gorgeous. Landscape description was never Waugh's forte, yet physical setting had as acute an effect on his character as on the writer himself. For *Brideshead* the directors (Charles Sturridge for the most part, Michael Lindsay-Hogg in the earlier filming), lighting cameraman (Ray Goode) and film editor (Anthony Ham) have commanded visions of Oxford, Castle Howard and Venice with the sensual intensity always implied, but rarely stated, for fear of emulating the prose, in the book. Charles is, after all, an Englishman who, through Sebastian, discovers a world of dizzying images and structural daring far beyond English domesticity and the teachings of Roger Fry: the Venetian episode (next week) takes up only a few pages in the novel, but it brings the film to a pitch of visual



Sebastian Flyte (Anthony Andrews, foreground) and Charles Ryder (Jeremy Irons) picnic on their journey from Oxford to Brideshead Castle

perfection which illustrates the bliss of delayed childhood which can only disintegrate — a brief excursion to the stormy Lido of Visconti's *Death in Venice* underlines the point. From then on, the film's narrative, through a series of happy accidents, is at first funny, then appalling. "I went to Venice," Charles tells his father. "Yes, yes. I suppose so. The weather was fine?" John Gielgud gives Edward Ryder a desolate and calculating malice which carries, almost singlehandedly, the element of human cruelty in Waugh's imaginative world. It is a crucial performance of the film, certainly the toughest and probably the best he has ever given on television.

Waugh's genius in *Brideshead* lies in the density and resonance of the dialogue and commentary. Mortimer, writer enough himself to have seen this, is totally faithful to the former and retains enough of the narrative in Irons's voice to sustain the shape and temper of the original prose. Resonance on the page, however, can only be sustained on screen by faces, by acting right through to match the quality of the direction, principals and music, and Granger's *Brideshead* is the best cast television show since *Edward and Mrs Simpson*: from the phillistine Hooper (Richard Hope) and trumpeting ass of a C.O. (John Nettleton) to Sebastian's joyless brother (Simon Jones)

and Charles's preposterous cousin (an exceptionally funny performance by Stephen Moore) there is no false note, whilst Nicholas Grace has the selflessness to make Anthony Blanche as vicious and unamusing as Charles Ryder found him and his model, Brian Howard, surely was. So far, so irresistibly seductive, then, which is also the received wisdom on the novel itself. The true test, the trial of a family in the faith seen by the man who loves them without understanding it, is still to come. This was the nerve from which, 35 years ago, MCM recoiled against and there is a very good chance indeed that it will now be grasped firmly for the first time.

Just before seeing *Brideshead Revisited* for the first time Sir John Gielgud lunched on Cinzano, one dozen oysters, white wine and coffee at Sheekey's. "I've only seen the rushes, not the whole first episode. Is it any good?"

At 77 he still has a tentative, sensitive air about the response to his work and is delighted to hear that Anthony Burgess thought that both he and Olivier gave the greatest performances of their careers. "It is the first thing we have appeared together in since a production of *Romeo and Juliet* in 1935."

In fact the two did not meet during the making of *Brideshead* but Gielgud says, perhaps mischievously, that Olivier really wanted his part of Edward Ryder, which he plays, instead of Lord Marchmain. But too much time has passed now for Gielgud to play along with any more stories of a great rivalry between them. His admiration for Olivier is unshaken. He particularly envies the energy. "He spends ages preparing for parts, gymnastics and things. I'm too lazy. I just go along and hope that I will be inspired."

Gielgud's appearance in the first episode took about ten days of filming, and he did prepare himself to the extent of rereading the novel. And evidently he enjoyed himself. Gielgud's praise and generosity is so widely scattered across his experiences that only by noting slightly fainter hymns of admiration is it possible to establish those for whom he has less than total respect.

For Charles Sturridge, *Brideshead*'s young director, he comes up with something close to canonization. "He reminded me of a young Peter Brook sitting there in his plumage thinking. I trusted his judgment. It is not right for somebody like me to be given too much respect. It is harmful to be deferred to too much... or to be too



"A crucial performance of palpable relish"

disparaged. I think it went very well."

All of which gives him reasonable confidence about the success of *Brideshead*, though he is nervous about the Americans, concerned they may not understand a word. Meanwhile he is enjoying vast success over there with the film *Arthur* — due here in December — in which he plays Dudley Moore's butler. It was a part he turned down twice because of the highly risqué dialogue, having been made nervous of such an involvement by the *Caligula* fiasco. But finally he took it, realizing the potential of combining his English hauteur with some frank crudity.

The rest of Gielgud's recent career has been a curious affair involving a mass of small parts in dozens of films, suggesting a slightly indiscriminate quality which has been the despair of his lifetime admirers. "But they pay me very well for two or three days' work a month, so why not? It's nice at my age to be able to travel all over the world at other people's expense."

For the rest of the month he seems to do very little. "I know nothing about business or sport or politics. I now rather wish I had learnt to swim. I took up some gardening this summer — I have this beautiful house and I read all the time, anything at all, thrillers, biographies."

But, over the last of the oysters, one hard ambition does emerge. He wants a major stage part. Last year Sir Peter Hall attempted to involve him in a production of *King Lear* at the National but he pulled out at the prospect of overseas tours and anything to do with promotions. "Oh, you have to go along with all that Parkinson-Harry stuff and meet hundreds of people. I really do not like meeting large crowds of people. It was Richardson who persuaded me to appear on a chat show last time."

He also, it emerges, loathes the National Theatre. "It's like a toad, don't you think? The dressing rooms are uncomfortable and the only decent theatre is the Cottesloe and that's like a coffin. I tried to persuade them to put a sign on the top to brighten it up but they said the architect had control for two years or something."

He yearns essentially for the theatre routine, the night after night of improving or changing a performance rather than the days sitting in a caravan waiting for a film crew to prepare themselves. These days he generally fills these waits with remembering the names of his school friends or assistant stage managers from early productions. "I am really a prosaic arch man. I went to a production at the Round House the other day and they had their back to me all the time. I think it was a marvellous production but I can't say I enjoyed myself very much."

The wonderful thing about being an actor is that you get your reward while you're here. There's no other art like it. Poets and painters can be completely unrecognized until after they are dead. It must be dreadful."

Opera

Castor et Pollux

Covent Garden

The crowded activity of the English Bach Festival in May each year is not enough for its indefatigable founder, Lina Landi. On Sunday evening, as for anyone between the last and the next EBF, she borrowed the Royal Opera House to stage one performance of Rameau's so-called tragic opera, *Castor et Pollux*.

None of us can go and see a Rameau opera every day, particularly one staged so scrupulously in the style of the period. For anyone with an interest in the history of opera, this one-off *Castor* was an invaluable museum exhibit, a complement to modern experience of Handel's contemporaneous opera seria, seldom so stylishly done.

It was to some extent made possible by the EBF's Rameau productions in previous years: the same costumes, and much of the same scenery, will do for them all (and for Handel

and Hasse and Scarlatti, no doubt), so that Mme Landi's budget can be concentrated on rehearsal and performance. The EBF's *Castor et Pollux* is not being permitted to vanish at once, though readers who missed it in London at the weekend will have to catch it in Monte Carlo in December, Paris in January or Athens later next year.

Rameau was 50 before he essayed the lyric stage. *Castor et Pollux* was his second opera. Seventeen years later, during the famous and ridiculous squabble about the merits of French opera-ballet and Italian operatic farce, known as the *guerre des bouffons*, he made a substantially revised version of *Castor*. History books discuss the first version, the EBF has opted for the revision, with fewer recitatives, and clearer action including the rejection of an allegorical prologue in favour of an expository first act, which should have been included all the time.

Castor et Pollux is the story of the Dioscuri, or Gemini, or Heavenly Twins, sons of

Leda, born from the same egg but by different fathers, one mortal, the other Zeus himself. The mortal, Castor, is killed, but Pollux offers to take his place in Hades so that Castor can return to life and marry the lady they both love. Jupiter resolves the problem by turning both into stars, and their mutual beloved as well.

Rameau followed his revered predecessor, Lully, in making drama as important as song to his operas, a tradition that persisted in France, and roused Wagner to thoughts of the "total work of art" which still eludes opera composers. His vocal music, less strictly patterned than that of his Italian contemporaries — the 1754 *Castor* drifts into and out of aria all the time, and seldom descends to recitative, even then melodiously — flatters a good singer.

In this cast Ian Caddy's Pollux had the lion's share, and he made the most of it, with handsome baritone, clear words and a cogent presence. In the last two acts, Peter Jeffes as Castor had,

and took, the opportunity to draw level. Jennifer Smith responded suitably to the formal, but musically gratifying, part of Telaira. Smaller parts were cast from strength (several singers were working a free night from the Glyndebourne touring *Midsummer Night's Dream*).

Charles Farncombe and the EBF Baroque Orchestra put our ears in trim with the pleasantly dry and prickly parts of the overture. The principals gestured in Tom Hawkes's production with the poses and movements familiar from old pictures and textbooks: the effect was strange yet perfectly appropriate, like the dancing of the many ballets, devised by Belinda Quirey.

Some enthusiasts want to bring old operas into the present time, and usually they fail, because the two times are out of joint. Far better to treat a museum-piece as such: that is the EBF method and I wish it every success in influencing the planning of the world's opera companies.

William Mann

Music in New York

Wagnerian extremities

In the American house of music there are presently many mansions. The mainstream mansion contains the work of John Harbison (born 1938), who provides an individual voice of welcome invention and — rare today — of sharply defined musical identity. The Piano Quintet, commissioned by the festival, is a five-movement work of contrast, beauty and stature culminating in an Elegy, arising from Harbison's family concerns, understated yet poignant in its fragmented expressions of grief. Harbison's music-making tends to smaller scale, akin to Fauré's, which often conceals his merits, but his melodic gestures — using confined, self-contained motifs woven with structural felicity — remain wholly personal. Harbison's work, now receiving much critical attention, steadily gains in its assurance and individuality.

The basilica that contains the group of Americans loosely termed "minimalists" has recently been much written about. They are, in truth, a very disparate lot, perhaps ultimately referring back to the guru John Cage but in fact seeking their own, quite distinct, ends. One feature, however, common to most of them is a concern with mystical transcendentalism, usually centering around the religions and music of India. La Monte Young (born 1935) pursues his own goals with a relentless and single-minded perseverance, and in his recent concerts has arrived at a set frame for his aural experiments.

Young's music, like that of other American composers such as the late Harry Partch, demands its own instruments and ideally the composer as performer, but Young in addition posits his own environment. This is Wagner's Bayreuth carried to its extreme. Young has found it in what used to be the trading floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange. His major work, which has been evolving since 1964, is entitled *The Well-Tuned Piano*, and is written for a grand piano, which has been strictly "rationally" tuned so that the overtones come into exact alignment. The piano he uses is a custom-built Bösendorfer Imperial, because that instrument, with its plangent bass and sonority of tone, is ideal for his overtones experiments. The Bösendorfer is kept in one position, in the room, which is at a constant temperature/humidity level, so that the tuning is exact and is used for performances of the work — unamplified — on Sundays and for playbacks of tapes made from that performance — unedited — during the week.

But the environmental surrounding includes more. The polished wood floor of the large room is partly covered with pile rugs, and the listener must remove his shoes to enter it. The room is in gloom, lit by magenta lights focusing on aluminum mobiles hanging in a precise pattern from the ceiling which, as they slowly turn in the air currents, refract and change colour. The listener is asked to sit, lie, stand or move about (silently) in the environment during the work, which lasts more than four hours — even go out and re-enter later or another day. I attended the midweek playback session, ghostly because of the huge silent

piano while its sounds came from speakers. The work itself stretches outward from a beginning and ends with a struggle and allowed to decay in overtones, gradually building up tones and overtones, with rolling tremolos out of which tones emerge and are subsumed. The piece is sequential, but the order of the sections can be changed or repeated so that each performance is unique. Each section has its own title — for example *The Magic Harmonic Reinforced Chorus* or *The Ethers Churn (The Dinosaurs Dance)* — but the separate entities were not as graspable, on first hearing, as was the unfolding of the work from moment to moment, like some Chinese scroll or, more pertinently, like Indian music.

The sonorous beauties of the prepared Imperial Bösendorfer are thoroughly explored and elaborated: I felt as if I was being washed by wave after wave of tuned bells — the *Vallee des Cloches* extending to the infinite. The hall, with its four structural pillars, recalled certain European cathedrals with nameless organists practicing their Sunday fugues. The interaction of the music and the space, and the music and one's mind, is focal to Young's compositional practice, for, although on one level it is organized and controlled as "pure music", it is meant to be experienced beyond the conscious mind.

Young has produced music which, at least in the context of its controlled environment, is much more than a mystic superficial son et lumière. There was something immensely satisfying about *The Well-Tuned Piano*, satisfying in its positive sense. Young had, as Charles Ives asked, stretched his ears.

Patrick J. Smith

Galleries

De Staël's vivid communications

Nicolas de Staël

Tate Gallery

Nicolas de Staël: Drawings and Engraved Works

Taranman

John Hoyland/Kenneth Noland/David Tremlett

Waddington Galleries

Of course there is some comparing of notes among critics. Not, as paranoid artists tend to imagine, because we are ganging up on an agreed line, but because we happen to know one another, meet at the same private views or screenings or first nights, and naturally chat about what interests us most. Actually, the effect is usually to define or emphasize differences rather than to ensure uniformity. This is often the explanation of an otherwise inexplicable defensive/aggressive note in reviews. Discovering that others do not share devotion to a favourite artist, one may well start answering charges before they are made.

Take Nicolas de Staël. As must have been evident from my comments in May on the big retrospective of his work in Paris, he is one of my most intense personal delights in all painting, a painter I am sure anyone could fail to enjoy. And yet, now that the show has arrived at the Tate Gallery (until November 29) in an abbreviated form, I hear around me several expressions of very modified rapture, and some of downright dislike or outright dismissal. That is not a bad thing; at least it makes me aware of a need to examine more closely my own reactions. If I have to argue a case, it is just as well that I should know quite precisely what that case is.

First of all, why do I find Staël so extraordinarily satisfying as a painter? The initial response is the most basic, visceral one: the sheer sensuous delight he feels, and conveys with such vividness, in colour and the physical pleasure of moving it around a canvas. In Staël's case it goes far beyond tactile qualities: one could eat his paint, lick it, smell it, roll it in it. Look at one of the later paintings in which he returned to the human figure after a period of abstraction: say *Les Indes Galantes* (1953), inspired by a visit to the theatre, in which there is a woman in pink, smiling and possibly (or possibly not) a man behind in blues, against a blue and grey background. Look at it, and then open yourself to it as a synaesthetic experience. It becomes difficult to say whether you are seeing it or hearing it, or tasting it, so



The certainty of "Portrait of Jeannine"

intense and pure is the sensation it evokes — all from the instinctive yet precise placing of patches of rich, creamy colour, like and unlike, one against another.

The usual argument is to dismiss this as decorative but unambitious: where, hostile critics want to know, is the fundamental brainwork? One need only read Staël's letters to his dealer, Jacques Dubourg, recently published in a volume of remarkable elegance by Taranman London (E15), to see that he was no jhinny, and had very clear and sensible ideas about painting and life (even his death, by his own hand at the age of 41, was approached with alarming clarity), but in his painting it is the hand and eye that think, leaving the intellectual parts aside. In this sense he was the most sensuously gifted of natural painters, even the earliest works in the show, such as the much-reproduced *Portrait of Janine* and the first abstracts from 1942-44, have unquestioning certainty in what they are doing. He makes painting look easy because that is what it was to him.

It is a quality we do not complain about in Mozart — a certain divine ease and confidence that things will come out right. We are perhaps more ready to feel doubts in relation to Staël because of the time in which he lived. How is it possible for a painter who came to prominence in the 1940s and

sensuous delights of seeing what has been made were rigorously excluded as virtually beneath contempt, naturally Staël and his kind were likely to provoke very little sympathy.

Let us hope that the show at the Tate will help to reverse all of that. Even though it is short of 44 out of 121 paintings — including, oddly enough, nearly all that I picked out as a particular commendation in Paris, especially from among the wonderful late paintings — and all the drawings, it still remains a beacon to light the gloom of the gallery's wing. Happily the absence of drawings (some of which, though the simplest black-and-white, are very large) is somewhat compensated by the appearance at the Taranman Gallery, 236 Brompton Road, until the end of November of a small but very choice selection of Staël drawings from all periods of his career, plus a complete collection of his book-work. Though some of the drawings and most of the etchings appear to have been done in a forlorn, unworldly way, there is such economy, such a sense of structure, that they should still forever the doubts of those whose residual puritanism makes them mistrustful of too much obvious pleasure, too its evidence of hard labour, both in the way an artist works and in the way they themselves respond. There is no reason in the world why art should not be easy.

But being easy is not, any more than being hard, the whole of the story. I quite believe that John Hoyland's painting comes easily to him; he is certainly very prolific, though he has now given up his long practice of tiding paintings with the date on which he did them, so that we cannot tell all more just at what speed he has been working. It is, I suspect, unfortunate for him that his show of recent paintings should open at the Waddington at the same time as the Staël (it continues until October 31). Staël provides an easy, and therefore possibly unfair, stick to beat him with.

Hoyland's colours are as cheery as Staël's, though coarser and selected with less discrimination. In this show, after the great wodge of brilliant colour in his *Serpentine* show and last Waddington appearance, he is in loosely defined but recognizable formal shapes, particularly squares and cubes. The overall effect is exuberant but rather empty.

While you are at the Waddington you might as well look at Kenneth Noland's recent work next door — oddly shaped, uniformly painted canvases with strips of contrasting or complementary colours — and the edges, tasteful but a bit silly — and David Tremlett's large outline drawings on white, which look nice in a light, airy, modern gallery-space but would surely inspire few to take them home.

John Russell Taylor

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Cavalleria Britannica

The autumn opera season opens with a completely new interpretation of Mascagni's famous opera, directed by the internationally known Very Pricey, conducted by Sir High Style.

THE CAST

In order of appearance:
Gianni Versace — a Sicilian tailor.
Roberto — a handsome merchant, friend to Gianni.
Britannica — a beautiful young English woman, sought after by Gianni.
The Princess of Wales — a young woman of noble birth.
Nigel, Ann and Roger — British designers, suitors to Britannica.
Chorus of Bond Street merchants.

The action takes place in Gianni's shop at 35 Brook Street, London W.1.

THE PLOT

Gianni Versace, son of a Sicilian peasant, now greatly loved by the fashion aristocracy in Milan, arrives in London to inspect his newly opened shop. His friend Roberto introduces him to Britannica, the beautiful young English woman whom he longs to dress.

Gianni attempts to seduce Britannica with his sumptuous pleated suede jodhpurs, in a romantic aria *Ecco bellicino* (Oh so beautiful...), he tells of his passion for suede and leather and how it has made his reputation across the world.

Britannica shyly admits that she has other suitors, the leading British designers, who have made similar breeches and jodhpurs, which are already in her wardrobe.

Roberto angrily intervenes on behalf of his friend and passionately pleads for Britannica's attention. In a soaring lyric melody *Noi Siamo* (We are the champions...), he tells Britannica that Gianni is the first and the best. He has put the world's fashionable women in jodhpurs; his sensuous sueded and silks already clothe American women, diplomats' wives, Argentine heiresses and even the disdainful French.

Now all that remains to complete his happiness is to dress Britannica.

Three British fashion designers enter. In an angry chorus they claim the soft suede breeches and leather jodhpurs as their own. *Nostri pantaloni* (Our trousers) and triumphantly produce the beautiful young Princess of Wales, wearing knee breeches to prove their case.

A pitched battle ensues in Bond Street, with each side swearing revenge over the body of Britannica, who brings the conflict to an end by her moving aria *Tutti Frutti* (I love them all...). She cannot choose between the seductive suede and leather clothes and doubts if she can afford any of them. But she tells Gianni that his trousers are the most beautiful of all.

Together they sing the romantic duet *Sempre Mio* (You will always be the one...).

Gianni returns to Milan, confident that he has won Britannica's heart and hips. Roberto and the merchants of Bond Street join in the triumphal chorus *Belle pelle* (Skin is beautiful) to the orchestral accompaniment of tinkling tills.



Above: Ginger suede gathered knickerbockers by Nigel Preston for Maxfield Parrish, £160 from Harrods; Feathers; Taylor and Hadow, Knightsbridge; Parkers, Brook Street, W1; Ideal Clothes, Stratford-upon-Avon; Moon 4, Glasgow. Ruffled and printed suede blouse by Maxfield Parrish in ginger, burgundy, brown or olive, about £175 from Harvey Nichols; Harrods; Parkers, Brook Street, W1; Elle Shops; Look of Halifax; Poppinjay of Old Portsmouth. Tapestry Principal Boy pumps, £39.99 at Derber, 77 New Bond Street, Kensington, Nottingham, Manchester. Gilded mahogany bangles and earrings by Valerie Robertson from Harvey Nichols; Liberty; Howie, Long Acre, WC2.

Left: Leather jerkin with drawstring shoulders by Mulberry, £110, matching breeches, £135, both from Mulberry, 32 St Christopher's Place; Harvey Nichols 21 Shop; Hobby Cardiff. Fair Isle patterned sweater by Mulberry, £39.50, from Harrods, Jeunesses, Worcester. Open-weave stole around head by Mulberry from Fortnum and Mason, Kew Gazette, Gobblewinks, Windsor; Leo Kadia, Bristol. Cavalier boots by Jordache, £49.50, at Chelsea Cobbler, 54 King's Road and Fulham; Way In at Harrods; Drizzle Department, Harvey Nichols. Bronze belt by Otto Glanz. Earrings and bangle by Valerie Robertson. Make-up by Christina Saunders for Revlon using their bold Gypsy Gold range. Hair by Dar at Clifford Stafford.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICK BRIGGS

London Designer Week

The plot outlined above is not just a jolly jape. It also reflects the aggressive mood of British fashion designers as the London Designer Week opens. They aim to convince the posse of international buyers who have flown in from Milan, and who leave for Paris on Friday, that we are now an important watering hole on the marketable clothes circuit.

Britain is already internationally renowned for classic fashion exports: Burberrys, cashmere and tweed. Over the last decade, London has also become the evening wear capital of the fashion world, with our quirky and romantic view of dressing up now endorsed by manufacturers world-wide.

Last season, the export buyers who came to the London showings discovered two more strands of success: leather wear and hand-knitting. I wrote last month about our imaginative and export-orientated hand-knits. You can see on this page our inventiveness and flair with skins.

Placing the designer part of London's fashion week as the delectable filling between the lumpy sandwich of the other European shows is an attempt to prove that British style is original, but practical; and that it has a style of its own worth looking at before the Paris big guns are fired.

I will be reporting next week on the runway shows by the top British designers. But an advance look at the collections now on view to the trade at the Hyde Park Hotel in Knightsbridge shows our designers in a controlled romantic mood.

The Edwardian nursery and dinner table have inspired a cluster of white collars, sailor shapes in stiff piqué, schoolroom squares of organza, wing collars in crisp cotton, often shown with a soft satin bow.

So the romantic feel that we do so well continue, but with few frills and mostly as just a soft touch to practical and wearable summer clothes. Favourite fabrics are linen, especially in white and with delicate details like fagoting

and open work. Stripes are the strongest print story, although collages of colour appear in the folkloric clothes always popular for summer holiday wear.

The evening brings us the short ball gown, a new silhouette and a more down-to-earth version of high romance.

The rest of the London showing season, including the inimitable Zandra Rhodes, takes place at Olympia after the Paris shows at the end of next week.

Expert view

The entertaining and engaging Norman Parkinson offers a treat for fashion buffs at 6.30 pm next Monday when he asks the double-edged question: "Is there fashion in photography?" That is the title of the talk he is giving to the Friends of Fashion at the Museum of London (London Wall, EC2) with illustrations from his own photographic archives. Tickets £1.50 from the museum.

Paul Theroux, the author who rediscovered the adventure of long-distance railway travel, this week publishes his eighteenth book, a substantial novel in which he explores the emergence of a new American Dream. Alan Hamilton meets the quiet Bostonian who, after years as a teacher and traveller in the less-civilized corners of the globe, has made his home in the unfashionable hinterland of south London

Theroux at the junction

It seemed appropriate to visit the author of *The Great Railway Bazaar* and *The Old Patagonian Express* by train. Paul Theroux lives in the seedy environs of Clapham Junction, a harrowing seven-minute expedition from Waterloo without benefit of buffet car. When you have earned a living riding rails to the armpits of the world, it is a relief to be handy for town.

Today Theroux publishes his eighteenth book, *The Mosquito Coast*, a substantial novel which has nothing to do with trains but a great deal to do with nasty, benighted corners of the earth. It is set in Honduras, the nastiest place he could find within easy reach of the United States, and concerns the Fox family who pull up the roots of their settled Massachusetts life to hack fresh pastures from the jungle.

Honduras is the ultimate banana republic, run as much by the Standard Fruit Company of the United States as by its government. O. Henry holed up there while on the run from the FBI, and great tracts of its map are devoid of any place names. Theroux made two trips there, and wrote with the map on his study wall.

'They remain to complain'

He sees his new book, whose title refers to the evil eastern seaboard of that country, as a latterday *Swiss Family Robinson* without the nauseating goodness, a *Treasure Island* without the treasure, a tale of castaways in which harsh reality replaces the traditional escape by penknife-carved boat into the glowing sunset.

He explained: "Recently Americans have begun to say: 'This used to be a great country, but now it is too expensive and too crowded. The quality of life is worse than it has ever been. Dammit, we've had enough.' The English have said it for years, but it is a new attitude in America."

"Yet Americans never follow it through, even when they become rich. They complain, and remain, unlike the British who tend to bolt as soon as they have made a pile. So I created a character, a bold, strong, inventive man — a bit of a tyrant even — who would follow it through. He is a bit like my father, who was always daring us as kids — you know, 'I'll give you a quarter if you sit on that rock until the tide comes in'. That sort of thing."

Theroux considers that Americans make hopeless colonists, and quite dreadful imperialists; they are, he says, too trusting, take everyone at his word, and think money will achieve everything. "Just look at American Samoa; only 10,000 people and an annual budget of 70 million dollars. As a society, it's a disaster."

Yet Theroux himself, a 40-year old Bostonian with the soft near-English accent of a well-travelled Ivy Leaguer, has spent most of his adult life abroad, much of it as a teacher in corners like Uganda, Malawi and Singapore, all of which have been British colonies at one time. He has lived in England for ten years. Is he not bordering on an emigrant himself?

British respect for privacy

"Not at all. Since they brought in £100 standby fares across the Atlantic, no American in England can call himself an exile. I spend four months of the year back home, and I have a house on Cape Cod. I stay here because my children are in school, and because I like the anonymity of the big city, and the British respect for privacy."

"The British way of dealing with strangers is to leave them alone. They don't gush, as Americans do. It has something to do with this being a crowded island; everyone needs to set up his own private territory around himself, otherwise life would be intolerable."

When he first came to England he tried living in Dorset, but there is no privacy in the country, where everyone knows his neighbour and his neighbour's business. Nor could his wife find work; now she has a job in the BBC World Service.

But there are problems of



Paul Theroux: liking big-city anonymity

commuting between Britain and Boston, Ireland's largest overseas possession. "Every one over there asks me about Northern Ireland. I take no sides. To me it is just savage tribal warfare; I saw the same between rival tribes in Uganda."

Could he ever see himself as Allie Fox, the hero of *The Mosquito Coast* who takes American technology to the primitives of Honduras and builds a giant ice-making machine in the jungle?

"Not exactly. But I do have a dream, to go to some primitive corner of the world and set up a school, to create something and get it going. It would be better than retiring to Eastbourne." He certainly has the required experience: in Malawi he ran a school where, instead of beatings, his scale of punishments involved making bricks for the new school lavatory — one brick for cheek, 20 for smoking hashish.

On the rails of a dream

Theroux is philosophical about being far better known for his train books than his novels. "I feel I wrote the railway books with my left hand, although I brought a novelist's approach to the task. But I am afraid that novel reading is a minority interest."

Another left-handed railway book is already being marshalled in his mind, this time riding the rails of Cecil Rhodes' dream from the Cape to Cairo (apart of course for the bit in southern Sudan and northern Uganda where they never joined up). He will, one presumes, be gazing out of the window looking for somewhere to start a school. And, unlike Allie Fox, he has every intention of buying a return ticket.



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Above: Pewter leather breeches by Bridget Woods, £130 at Teamwork, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1; Polo, Marylebone High Street; Way In at Harrods. Armoured sweater, hand-knitted and studded in pewter, yellow, rust, black and cream. By Artwork, £91 from 33 St Christopher's Place, W1. Studded leather belt by Otto Glanz, £11.95 from Fenwick, Brent Cross. Studded leather boots in black, bronze or wine from Rayne, 66 New Bond Street; Harrods and Harvey Nichols.

Right: Long blouson jacket with appliqué leaf trim by Ann Buck in Pitard's leather, £270, matching breeches £174. From Lucienne Phillips, Knightsbridge; Chic of Hampstead; Emma Somerset, Manchester and Wilmslow. Katherine Draisley of Birmingham. Bronze boots by Beene Bag, £48 at London branches of Chelsea Cobbler, Rayne, Bond Street and Brompton Road, Harrods, Way In and Harvey Nichols. Bold bronze earrings by Valerie Robertson, £16 from Liberty and Howie, Long Acre, WC2.



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Mrs Thatcher's war on economic ignorance

First, a quotation from the leader of the Labour Party. He insisted that "coldly calculated policies headed Britain back again towards the unemployment of the 1930s."

He especially condemned Tory "treatment of school leavers; school leavers without jobs... When they seek to leave school to venture into the wider world, there is no place for them in the Tory market economy." He criticized the Prime Minister personally for "an obsession with a market economy."

This quotation is not from yesterday's *Times*, but from October 6, 1971. We have been here before, but most of us fail to realize it. Do we never learn economic lessons? Unless we do, we shall constantly be reliving history — and doing so badly, out of ignorance.

For that ignorance, the childishness of our media bears a heavy share of blame. Most of what passes for political comment is rehearsed gossip, devoid of analytical rigour or historical insight. Together with the educational system, the media is largely responsible for the immaturity of our elite.

It is debatable, therefore, whether politicians are more sinned against than sinning in the lack of historical perspective. What is certain is that, unlike good businesses, previous British governments have lacked a mechanism for organized learning.

The confusion of our present economic debate is thus worse even than we think. We could have learned more lessons from 1970-73. But we have not.

D. C. Hague, an adviser to the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, argues that the economic lesson of the 1970s has not been learnt. It is, he says, that the Government must pursue its present policies.

What are those lessons? First, we advocated ludicrously high growth rates. During the 1960s attempts to raise real gdp by more than 3 per cent a year had led to balance of payments crises. Yet in 1971-72 commentators argued that 5 per cent growth would not create bottlenecks in the economy and that without such stimulus unemployment would not fall.

In 1973 there was 5 per cent growth, but also soaring inflation and a massive balance of payments deficit which, even without the oil price crisis, would have required policies to halt growth and raise unemployment. Conventional wisdom overstated the maximum feasible growth rate, as it had done throughout the 1960s and as it does today.

Second, the Government favoured laxity in both fiscal and monetary policy. Huge tax cuts were not offset by tight monetary policy, even though the media acknowledged that monetary laxity was responsible for rapidly rising house prices. The 1971 Budget set a target of 12 per cent growth for the money supply, against 3 per cent for output, implying a 9 per cent inflation target. By 1972, with the money supply rising at nearly twice

the target rate, commentators took the line which many take today. Though acknowledging that monetary growth was high by any standards, they took refuge in doubting whether, even if the Chancellor really knew what monetary growth he wanted, the Bank of England would be able to produce it.

The emphasis was on a naively Keynesian view — not uncommon even today — that only government action in reducing taxation or increasing expenditure could set off processes that created extra income and jobs. They ignored the vital fact that, as Samuel Brittan pointed out, if this were true there would have been no significant economic development at all before this century.

Third, as today, worries about unemployment led to calls for rapid reflation, and these calls came when reflation was already potentially too rapid. Yet, with unemployment high, falling private sector investment was more than politicians felt able to stand. The consequent increase in public sector investment was destined to stoke the next boom, not smooth the recession.

The one positive aspect of rising unemployment was

the benefit that such a shakeout could provide. In the early 1970s, much hectoring had been provoked by consultant Bill Allen.

Coining the phrase "half-time Britain", he argued that the British gdp could be produced from the existing machinery with half the labour force, with the other half redeployed to foster economic growth. Such redeployment could come only if labour were first shaken out of existing jobs into unemployment and later into new jobs.

The *Economist* argued in 1971 that the recession gave such an opportunity. It should not be greeted by the sort of political panic in which governments insist on trying to shake all the redundant labour straight back into their previously unnecessary jobs.

The TUC has always seen this as its role. It seeks to recreate a nineteenth-century industry because the industries of the past are known and familiar: the industries of the future are not.

Despite the lessons of the 1970s, the pressure is still to develop yesterday's industries — coal, steel, shipbuilding, textiles. There is no similar pressure on behalf of tomorrow's industries — those connected

with the information revolution — computer hardware and software, telecommunications and video cassette recorders.

The fact that thousands of millions of pounds were wasted in over-expanding steel in the 1970s does not prevent the railway investment lobby from nominating the railways as the bottomless pit of the 1980s.

In 1971 speeches from Harold Wilson provided blueprints for Labour leaders' speeches today, and calls for a 35-hour week grew stronger. High and rising unemployment ensured that the unemployed were indeed "shaken back", largely into their previous jobs.

Finally, lags. The most important cause of excessive reflation was a failure to appreciate the length of the lags that operate in any economy, and especially in the United Kingdom.

Small doses of reflation were expected to take effect more quickly than was remotely possible. When they did not, the doses were repeated and increased. Ministers' advisers predicted that the mini-budget of 1971 would quickly reduce unemployment and panicked when, by the winter of 1971-72, it had not.

Yet the stimulus for reflation was already there — in excessive quantities. Inevitably they took effect, leading to boom and bust.

In November, 1971, there was a "bewildered debate" on unemployment in Parliament, and violent demonstrations against unemployment outside it. Within six months there was the lar-

Geoffrey Smith assesses the extent of Tory disaffection

How strong is the revolt?

It is a long time since a Conservative conference was approached with such eager expectation. Generally they are rather predictable affairs, contrasting in their decorum and dullness with the fascinating chaos of the Labour proceedings the week before. But this year all is different. As the Conservatives have been gathering in Blackpool for this morning's opening the air has been thick with reports of criticisms and revolts.

The Conservative Whips have even found it necessary to consult members of the parliamentary party to see how widespread the disaffection is. Now at Blackpool, it is said, there will be the test of whether Mrs Thatcher still commands the full-hearted consent of the party for her policies.

But just how serious is the challenge, and what is its precise nature? Is Mrs Thatcher herself in jeopardy? Or is this, for all the histrionics, simply an attempt to judge Government policy a bit in a different direction?

It is curious how all these expressions of discontent have come at much the same time. It is tempting therefore to suppose that they have been orchestrated, that Mr Heath's frontal assault is linked as part of a master plan to Mr Geoffrey Rippon's declaration of faith as a devotee of the middle way and to the reasoned analysis of the young Eusebius in the pamphlet, *Changing Guard*. But that is not so.

It will be hard to move in Blackpool these next few days without coming across one or another of the party's luminaries calling either directly or obliquely for a change of course. Mr St John-Stevas is expected at a luncheon fringe meeting today to warn of the danger presented by the Social Democrats and of the need for the Conservatives to recapture the central ground, before he goes on to make one or two positive proposals in the social field.

Mr Heath will be trying to catch the chairman's eye in the economic debate on Wednesday for what will presumably be another onslaught.

At a fringe meeting that evening Sir Ian Gilmour will be offering his prescription, or more probably joining those who are proposing what is becoming a familiar list of remedies: the relaxation of monetary restraints; increased capital spending; reduction of the national insurance surcharge on employers; and British membership of the European Monetary System (EMS). Then later in the week Mr Peter Walker will be speaking at another fringe meeting.

Yet these are not coordinated activities. They could not be, because there are differences on tactics and on the causes of concern. Mr Heath's eruption on to the scene is regretted by many other Conservative wets because they believe that he has made it harder for them to attack Mrs Thatcher's policies without seeming to engage in a conspiracy against her. Nor are the others, apart from Mr Heath, combining their efforts. They are not even all wets. Some have for long been convinced critics of Government policy. Others have more recently become alarmed, principally at the prospect of losing their marginal seats. Others again have not publicly expressed their criticism but are known to be unhappy at the drift of events. The unease within the parliamentary party is widespread and considerable.

But it is a diffuse dissatisfaction, not a calculated rebellion. There is as yet no serious challenge to Mrs Thatcher's leadership. A lot of glib nonsense is spoken about the Conserva-

tives having always got rid of a leader as soon as he has served his purpose. They have not. Sir Alec Douglas-Home need not have resigned the leadership when he did. It took a long time for his colleagues to persuade Churchill to retire; and the departures of Mr Macmillan and Eden were speeded by illness.

It would be a hazardous operation for Conservative MPs to attempt to throw out their Prime Minister. The whole ethos of the party is against such rebellion. It would be deplored by the party in the country, where there is also considerable unease but still much support for Mrs Thatcher. Pressure from their constituency parties has already been brought to bear upon some of the critics and potential critics.

So long as they can say that they are only arguing about the merits of particular policies, not conning against their leader, it is easier for them to placate their local parties. In most cases this attitude is genuine, not because they all love Mrs Thatcher but because those who love her least are most intent on changing the policies — and they believe that they would stand less chance of doing so if the attempt were mixed up with a botched exercise in political assassination.

Indeed, a number of those who have been attacking the Government on policy would quickly slide back into their bunkers if they found that they were being associated with a plot against the leadership. It is not only that they do not think this would succeed. Many of them are not convinced that a change at the top would help much. They do not see a successor who they think is capable of kindling the enthusiasm of the country, and even a successful deposition would be a very messy business. So Conservative hands are not so much feeling their fingers crossed.

But what if it is possible to force Mrs Thatcher into a dialogue on policy only by threatening her position? It is this kind of consideration that has stimulated the idea of possible running a candidate against Mrs Thatcher for the leadership at the beginning of the next parliamentary session in November.

If there is such a move much the strongest choice would be Mr Geoffrey Rippon, a senior and respected back bench who would not be vulnerable to the charge that he was contesting the leadership only because Mrs Thatcher had sacked him from the Government. But if Mrs Thatcher is challenged, which is by no means certain, there should be no doubt about the purpose.

In theory, Mrs Thatcher could be dethroned outright or there could be such a large minority of votes cast against her that she would feel it necessary to stand down. But in practice nobody would expect Mrs Thatcher to be dethroned. She is not a person who is easily abashed. So the intention would be to force her to compromise by displaying the strength of opposition in the parliamentary party.

The trouble with such an operation is that it could so easily misfire because by no means all those discontented with policy would be prepared to vote against her personally. Perhaps the prospect will look very different after the Crosby election, still more if the Conservatives manage to lose Crosby to Mrs Shirley Williams. But for the moment most of the critics are concentrating their fire on policy because otherwise they might end up shooting each other.

Why the Nobel peace prize causes so much conflict

The Norwegian Nobel Committee tomorrow names the winner of the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize. The confusion on what the prize is supposed to be rewarding can be gauged from the short list of favourites: Robert Mugabe, a former guerrilla leader; Lech Walesa, who has undoubtedly contributed to freedom but could hardly be said to have helped lessen international tension; and Madam Alva Myrdal, the Swedish campaigner for disarmament.

Madam Myrdal's candidature is supported by 100 Norwegian MPs and she would appear to be the most appropriate choice. But she is by no means certain of success. Indeed she has been a failed candidate of the broad left for many years.

Of the five Nobel prizes, the Peace Prize, almost since its inauguration in 1901, has been the most buffeted by criticism. The Peace Committee — consisting this year of a journalist who was a Norwegian army liaison officer in wartime Britain (chairman); a lawyer; agriculturist; a former MP and Norway's film censor — continually

faces fundamental objections. Compared to the massive resources on offer for the destruction of mankind, the prize of £100,000 and a medal would seem a forlorn attempt to curb international delinquency. The other awkward fact is that peace makers have usually been involved in the wars they decide to cease.

The joint awards to Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam and Henry Kissinger in 1973 and to Begin and Sadat in 1978 led to considerable debate on this point. In the case of Begin and Sadat the criticism, at least in Scandinavia, was mostly levelled at Begin.

They were by no means the most controversial awards: the prize to Teddy Roosevelt, a bellicose imperialist whose intervention in the Russo-Japanese war was clearly motivated by political considerations, created quite a furore when the prize was only six years old.

Another factor which undermines credibility is the obstinate will to pretend that the committee is in no way influenced by current political preoccupations. The Russians were not convinced of

this when Andrei Sakharov got the prize in 1975, and the Argentine government was definitely sceptical last year when the prize went to human rights activist Perez Esquivel — particularly when the citation spoke of the use of extreme violence by the country's "military regime".

The problem may be that the Peace Prize was conceived in controversy and ambiguity and that its rules do not offer the firm guidance which characterizes the literary award.

Credible for 25 post-war years

Nobel decided to give the Peace task to a Norwegian committee at a time when the Swedish-Norwegian union conflict was at its height; the Swedes were outraged that it should be entrusted to "the separatist Norwegians". There is doubt — that the thinking behind it was entirely Nobel's; it was much inspired by Madame Bertha von Suttner, whose Nobel appears to have had at least an intellectual crush. A great campaigner for peace, she takes credit in her writings for having devised the philosophy behind the venture and she herself got the prize in 1905.

Nobel seems to have had ambivalence, and in retrospect, mistaken notions. So impressed was he by his own dynamite and its deterrent power that he wrote to Bertha: "My factories may well put an end to war sooner than your (peace) congresses." Also, he thoroughly underestimated man's capacity for constructing lethal monsters. He also had a curious reason for proposing mutually binding military agreements between nations: it would create a climate of security and leave governments free to deal with a new danger: the great social revolution. "A new tyranny", he wrote, "that of the dregs of the population, is lurking in the shadows."

During its early years the Peace Prize was largely associated with organizations for peace and international arbitration. It went to people like the Englishman William Randal Cremer (1903), who founded the International Arbitration League. Disheartened by the First World War, the committee made only one award in five years, to the Red Cross. Even that was criticized on the ground that the Red Cross was not necessarily against war; it simply bandaged the wounded.

The committee got back into its stride in 1919 when, perhaps in its most universally accepted decision, it gave the prize to Woodrow Wilson. But by 1933 understanding of the criteria had reached a nadir: two candidates that year were Hitler and Mussolini. In the following seven years there were only two awards, one to the Geneva Office for Refugees and the other again to the Red Cross.

For 25 years after the war credibility was maintained. Awards to two Britons were widely acclaimed: Lord Boyd

Orr (1949) for his contribution to overcoming world food problems and to Philip Noel-Baker (1953), campaigner for disarmament. Also widely approved were awards to Dag Hammarskjöld (posthumously, 1961), Martin Luther King (1964) and Willy Brandt (1971).

But the committee was not comfortable during the 1970s. It was accused of fumbling the 1976 award, giving it a year late to the Northern Ireland peace movement; hardly had Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams got the money than the movement began to disintegrate. Some detected cause and effect.

This week the committee was reported to have had to consider about 65 candidates. Those entitled to make nominations are MPs and governments of any country; the International Arbitration Court at The Hague; the International Peace Bureau, university professors of political science, law, history or philosophy; former Nobel laureates; and former Nobel committee members. Members of the incumbent committee can add their own candidates, whose names are secret.

Gandhi the pacifist went unrewarded

The chairman throughout the turbulent 1970s, and still in office, is Dr John Sanness, a man of 68 with an erect, soldierly bearing and a crisp delivery of idiomatic English. He is adamant that his committee never engages in polemics; that voting is

strictly secret, and no dissent is recorded. "You will not find a scrap of paper which relates to our deliberations", he told me.

"We didn't need a scrap of paper in the Kissinger-Le Duc Tho affair," I pointed out. "Two members of the committee resigned." "In that case the voting became obvious", he conceded.

"Some 'journalists', he went on, "have accused the committee of being farmers or Babes in the Woods. I have to say we have all had international experience. We have not lived all our lives in the shelter of the Norwegian valleys."

"A basic criticism of your committee," I said, "is that its members are appointed by the Norwegian Parliament. That is, by a political body to carry out a fairly political task." "But the committee is not responsible to Parliament," he replied. "We never discuss the candidates with Parliament or with political parties. It is strictly between five individuals."

Dr Sanness acknowledged the Peace Committee's celebrated blunder: it never awarded the prize to one of the world's rare, pure pacifists, Mahatma Gandhi.

Like all Nobel committees, the Peace committee canvasses the world for nominations. Did it send annual invitations to Russia and China? Dr Sanness was vague about this. His secretary thought they gave a letter to the Russian Embassy in Oslo. But they never got a reply.

Peter Lennon

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Howls of protest at the New York Met

I hear from New York that Miss Renata Scotta has been given a devastating reception for her sad performance in that most demanding of all roles, the "Norma". I understand that the Metropolitan Opera has never known anything like it. Miss Scotta has been cruelly nicknamed "Renata Screecho", and to boo or not to boo has become quite an issue.

All music critics agree that, despite the clear erosion of Miss Scotta's lyric talents, she has, moved into roles that her coloratura voice has been unable to handle gracefully in recent years. Yet, so controversial a figure has she become that even the political columnist, William Safire, has dubbed her "the Al Haig of the Met."

The boos and catcalls that persisted throughout her performance of "Norma" did not stop there, however. Insidious nose-blowing was also to be heard. The protest, which happened to be organised by that New York *Times* calls "anti-Scotta guerrillas", began even as she spoke her first words, which as it happened, were: "sedizioso voci!" ("traitorous voices!")

Double Domingo

Meanwhile, Plácido Domingo, who celebrates his tenth anniversary at Covent Garden next month in his celebrated role as Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, will be branching out simultaneously into a new career. With EMI and Deutsche Grammo-



Popular — and not so popular: Plácido Domingo and Renata Scotta.

phon marking his anniversary conventionally with new Domingo operatic releases CBS is stealing a march on its rivals by issuing an album in which the Spanish tenor sings what are called "contemporary love ballads". His opera fans are unlikely to take exception to Domingo singing such modern classics as Paul McCartney's "Yesterday" and John Denver's "Anie's Song", but they may demur at



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THE TIMES DIARY

Correlli Barnett, the military historian, tells me he has been surprised by the popularity among undergraduates of the new defence studies special option just inaugurated in the Cambridge History Tripos. Last week, when the new option started, the lecture was so full that there were even people sitting on the floor.

Yesterday Barnett (*The Desert Generals, Britain and Her Army, The Collapse of British Power*) told me that the new special subject — "British Grand Strategy 1933-1939" — encompasses foreign and defence policy, imperial relations, rearmament, technological research, and public opinion. He feels it could be an embryonic challenge to the hitherto unchallenged supremacy of Oxford and King's College, London, in defence studies and strategic history.

The duet he sings with the folksier Denver whose voice, though nominally a tenor, seems to owe its delivery as much to nasal as to oral cavities. Denver, who wrote the duet, also accompanies it on guitar. Domingo insists that the pop record is no radical departure from his operatic image. It merely resumes, he recalls, the role of popular entertainer he played as a child when he toured with his parents' travelling theatre troupe in Mexico in productions of *My Fair Lady* and *Brigadoon*.

The specialty is one of the fruits of the universities' appointment last year of Dr Philip Towle and Mr Barnett to two new fellowships specifically to teach defence studies. According to Mr Barnett, "until well into the post-war era in English-speaking universities, there has been a certain prejudice against military history or defence history". The popularity of the lectures may owe something to The Wilderness Years, currently on television, but Barnett says that the period does offer some fascinating parallels with our own time.

Citing as examples the problem of supporting a defence effort out of a sagging economy, and a strong unilateral disarmament tide in public opinion, Barnett adds that reading some of the official papers and discussions is rather like eavesdropping on Sir Geoffrey Howe, John Knox and the Chiefs of Staff grappling with today's defence planning.

Ready Teddy no?

Dr Desmond Axolotl, the GLC's new £60,000-a-year people's vet, admitted last night that he was "as puzzled as a parrot" as to why Ted-Ted, Wormwood Zoo's ultra-rare Bex Lee Duck, has not yet laid an egg despite all the signs that the happy event is imminent.

"It is very confusing," said Dr Axolotl who in his spare time is a member of the European Parliament. "Clinically, all the symptoms

are there: increased babbling, forced laughter and hyperbole running at 30 times the normal level, which in any other animal of this genus would be a sure sign that something big was afoot." Meanwhile, Ted-Ted is under round-the-clock surveillance by a team of 30 crack physiologists, psychologists and psephologists.

The Chinese have so far bred about 15 Bex Lee ducks in captivity. The creatures are believed to be a cross between the more common sweet ducks of Canton and the sour ducks of Peking. But Ted-Ted has been making laying noises for well over a year now, much longer than anything bred in China, and this is what puzzles experts.

"Unless something happens soon," said Axolotl, "zoo staff may be forced to X-ray Ted-Ted to see what, if anything, is going on inside. The extra cost, of course, will be levied as a supplementary duck."

"It could be a false alarm. I think the world knows that nine out of 10 Bex Lee duck liaisons end in divorce so that most of the young, Ted-Ted included, are raised in one-parent families. That is why ducks lack so many of the social graces."

"If it is a phantom pregnancy, then it probably serves the clinical function of securing for the animal the attention it never had before. According to the Chinese, sea air sometimes helps this condition and Ted-Ted has an invite to spend Ted-Ted to Blackpool Zoo. If we decide to do so, it will of course be costly, and there will have to be another rate increase."

Peter Watson



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FAITH AND THE TORIES

The organizers of the conference at Blackpool this week might take a leaf from the book of those who organized a grand gathering also concerned with doubt at Seville in 1484. Twenty-eight articles of faith were promulgated. Heretics were allowed thirty days to declare themselves. Those who were reconciled were merely deprived of all honourable employment. Feigned confession of error led straight to the public auto-da-fé.

Very much milder measures than these — a scowl from the Leader, perhaps — will see off most of the half-hearted heretics among the Tory backbenchers, but Torquemada himself could not now stop the development of the forceful attack on the Government's economic strategy from Mr Heath, Mr Rippon and Sir Ian Gilmour. They are right to persist. This is not because they have a wholly convincing alternative or that they represent a higher order of politician. Mrs Margaret Thatcher is the best Prime Minister we have got. It is rather because the air in the Tory house has become fetid. New thoughts must circulate. Unfortunately, given existing technologies, they have to be attached to personalities. This complicates matters when Mr Heath, say, makes a well-argued speech, but he is not to be disqualified or derided merely because he is a former Prime Minister. Nor did he personalize his criticisms in the way that Mr Edward du Cann, to name but one, has personalized the response in a manner that has become sadly symptomatic of attitudes to dissent — though he himself has murmured from time to time. Mrs Thatcher needs to be spared such friends. It is doing the Tory party a good deal of harm for it to resemble less of a Church and more of an Inquisition.

The message from the polls

The imperative for a more open debate in the Tory party has two springs. The first is that the economic policy is not so brilliant that it is manifestly incapable of refinement. Secondly, whatever the merits of this Government, it has lost popular support. In the opinion polls, it has been registering around 30 per cent — and well below that when respondents are reminded of the existence of the Liberal-SDP alliance. The Conservatives might, of course, recover from this mid-parliamentary nadir, as every previous government has to some extent, especially given the suicidal antics of the Labour opposition. But it is imprudent to rely upon automatic regeneration. The support for the Government, in fact, has plumbed the lowest depth achieved by any government since the war, and Mrs Thatcher herself is the most unpopular Prime Minister since polling records began. Indeed, she is unique in recording levels of unpopularity even below those of her party, whereas Mr Callaghan usually ran around 10 to 20 per cent ahead of Labour and even the derided Mr Heath usually stayed 5 per cent ahead of the Tories.

As an individual Mrs Thatcher deserves better. In view of her many personal qualities, the unpopular verdict must surely owe much to her vehement association with a mechanical monetarism which, to the average man, grinds on regardless of the human and social consequences. Sir Geoffrey Howe ridicules Mr Heath for having found a philosopher's stone. On the contrary, aside from the Labour left's idea of a fortress Britain in the skies, the only magic solution on the scene is the Government's belief that the control of the quantity of money in the economy can turn control the rate of inflation, whatever the other policies. Mrs Thatcher is seen to be tied to a philosopher's abacus. It has not, at half term, been serving us very well.

Industrial production is below not only what it was under Labour but is even below the level when Mr Heath succumbed to the miners in 1974. Unemployment has doubled. Prices have increased in double figures throughout Mrs Thatcher's term; at no time have price increases been as low as they were when Mr Callaghan was thrown out, and inflation has now stopped falling. Interest rates are at record levels. Real incomes are falling. Increases in rail fares, post and telephones are about to be imposed. The Medium Term Financial Strategy with its crude limits for the growth of Sterling M3 even requires nationalized industries to raise their prices, cutting right across the drive to cut inflation. Retail sales are expected to contract. House-building has collapsed with starts and completions below the lowest unprecedentedly low levels of 1980. Public expenditure is higher than when this Government took over, as is the rate in the increase in the money supply, assuming that we can measure it. The balance of payments is unknown since the Civil Service strike, but is believed to have moved into deficit despite the massive and fortuitous benefits of North Sea oil.

Sterling has dropped well below the level of May 1979, despite the expenditure of 700 million dollars of reserves last month alone defending it, and after being allowed earlier to rise to excessive heights which crushed Britain's export industries. Looking forward to 1982 the picture is little better. The reduction in incomes and the recent extra squeeze on consumer borrowing will almost certainly kill any hopes of a recovery in output: it looks like being no more than 1 per cent growth, which probably means even higher unemployment and a still bleaker outlook for Britain's younger generation. Price increases may fall to around 10 per cent next year, and even into single figures sometime in 1982-3, but it is now virtually certain that at no point before the next election will output be as high as it was during Mr Callaghan's disastrous winter of discontent.

The interest rate fallacy

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor insist there are lower. Expectations are better. Productivity is improving. There is truth in this, but it does not begin to meet the point that these and greater benefits, economically and socially, might have been purchased at less cost, and that the present course inspires little confidence in its capacity to return more than small change for a massive investment. There is no evidence, contrary to the rhetoric that these policies have worked wonders anywhere else. High interest rates are not an answer to inflation; they add to industrial costs. They have long been manifest in many inflationary economies. Nor are they the sole equalizer between government borrowing and a nation's savings. There are many influences on interest rates — fiscal policy, inflation and the exchange rate included — but government policy is overriding. The government has belatedly decided to have an exchange rate policy as an instrument of domestic economic policy. But this decision has been hopelessly warped by the disorder in the exchange markets, which in one country after another has enforced interest rate determinations quite unrelated to domestic economic requirements. They have piled deflation on deflation. In his famous speech, Mr Heath rightly pointed out that internal monetary policies cannot cope with international disturbances (though to our taste his Europeanism inclined him to slide too much towards an anti-American posture).

Restive Conservative backbenchers do not have to follow

Mr Heath all the way, though, domestically he scores several bulls and a few magpies. What they must do is persuade the Government away from obsession with crude and uncertain monetary aggregates and, in particular, induce it to recognize once again that economic policy must be a balance of measures, flexible between a variety of conflicting objectives. This involves no sacrifice of Tory philosophy, nor even any dramatic switch from the Government's present strategy.

Three areas to debate

There are three areas for consideration. Without either abandoning fiscal rectitude or the drive on inflation, it should be possible for the Chancellor to rebalance priorities to allow for a recessionary or unemployment public sector borrowing requirement. As the Clare Group of economists pointed out yesterday there is no evidence this would "crowd out" private investment, but the contrary in this slump. Removal of this shibboleth makes feasible more capital investment, a massive training programme, and a reduction in the national insurance surcharge. Secondly, the Government should change its target from a domestic monetary target to an exchange rate target and join the European Monetary System, a small but essential step to the goal of international currency agreements. Thirdly, there should be an attempt to secure an understanding on incomes restraint. The Clare Group is on exactly the right lines in proposing a trade-off between union restraint and stimuli for the economy.

It is the public sector which above all must be restrained. Mrs Thatcher's policies have had success in the private sector where inflation is around 5 per cent but this has been undermined by public inflation at nearly three times that level. She should consider a public sector pay freeze for the current round. There should be strict cost limits in the public industries, and especially in the public monopolies which have so far avoided most of the pressures of government policy by passing them on to the suffering public in higher prices. These industries must be forced either to restrain wages or to cut their massive inefficiencies, or preferably both. With pay and public industry charges restrained in this way, the outlook for inflation would significantly improve in the medium term. Sterling should then be sustainable at current levels against the dollar with a lower general level of interest rates, which in turn would ease the burden of industry and the home owner.

Hope rather than pain

Nobody would pretend that there is a Good Housekeeping guarantee with any of these policies. But in the dead end which confronts the Government they and their variants are surely worth considering. That is all anyone asks and it is the absence of this sense of debate which is so sultry and depressing, allied with the constant reiteration of the theme of pain against hope. A change of substance is desirable; a change of style is essential. Mrs Thatcher has won esteem on particulars in her period in office — in Zimbabwe where she was flexible and in Northern Ireland where she has been resolute. She should not in her economic strategy any longer pursue a foolish consistency, she should take a little and in doing so, fearlessly spurn the injunction of that great Tory wit Mr Disraeli who said "Pray remember, Mr Dean, no dogma, no Dean."

Tax on wage increases

From Professor Richard Poyles

Sir, Perhaps the "tax on wage increases" is an idea whose time has finally come, but this is all the more reason for not ignoring its past. Your report of Mr Roy Jenkins's speech (October 10) tends to enhance the SDP's already considerable reputation for discovering the wheel. To tax each firm's profits according to its average wage increase seems indeed so obvious an anti-inflationary measure that it should have been introduced long ago.

Mr Jenkins is not the first politician, nor Professor Richard Layard the first academic, to propose a "tax-based incomes policy", even in this country. Mr John Pardon espoused it, and Mr Michael Fogarty wrote about it some years ago as did I. In the United States, Professor Wallich (now a Governor of the Federal Reserve) and Weintraub proposed it a decade ago. Versions of the tax have actually been implemented elsewhere. As one might expect from such a history, the substantial theoretical and empirical literature on the tax is not unambiguously favourable. Firms might pass on such a tax in their prices; it might distort the pattern of labour demand; it might tend to freeze relative wages between firms and penalize the efficient; it would be incompatible with productivity-related wage agreements.

On the other hand, by reducing the dispersion of wage increases across firms, it might limit "imitative" wage-push bargaining; and it would encourage hiring the unskilled, lower-paid workers (reducing a firm's average wage) who are hardest hit by the recession. The SDP might add something to what we already know by studying how such a tax would work with labour-managed firms (reducing a firm's average wage). Professor Robin Morris, who rightly suggested in your columns (October 5) that workers' control would be ideal common ground for the SDP and the Liberals.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD POYLES, Professor of Economics and Head of Department, Birkbeck College, University of London, 7-15 Gresse Street, W1, October 12.

Tricks of the trade

From Mr Chapman Pincher

Sir, Mr Edward Heath complains (report, October 7) of attacks by "the dirty tricks department", presumably located somewhere in the current Tory machine. Does such a department, formal or informal, really exist? I can find no evidence for it but Tory Party officials prepared to perpetrate extremely dirty tricks on Mr Heath's behalf certainly existed when he was the party leader. I could quote several examples but that most vividly in my memory concerns the evening before the day of the October 1974 election which Mr Heath lost to Labour.

I was telephoned at about 6pm in my office at the Daily Express by a Tory official known to me (no longer employed there) who asked me to come very early on the morning of the election. I was to contact Sir Claus Moser, then the Government's chief statistician, had assured a private audience of postgraduate economists at Southampton University that while Dame Healey, then Chancellor, was claiming that inflation was down to 8½ per cent it was in fact much higher and would soon be up to 25 per cent.

The informant, who said he was sure of his facts and was definitely in the Tory Central Office because I rang him back there, suggested that this information would make a superlative lead story for the Daily Express on election eve. He would have been right, but it was not I managed, only by minutes, to contact Sir Claus's office which assured me that he had been in Geneva for the past three days and had given no lecture in Southampton. Facts which I was able to confirm later from Sir Claus himself. I also learned that the Tory official had telephoned other newspapers with the same hoax story.

Mr Heath could not have known that he was being attempted on his behalf because he was busy in his constituency, but this and similar incidents suggest that he is ill advised to make allegations about "dirty tricks" in respect of the present administration.

Yours faithfully,

CHAPMAN PINCHER, The Church House, 16 Church Street, Kibury, Hungerford, Berkshire, October 12.

Preventing burial

From Mr A. T. H. Smith

Sir, In this morning's Law Report, *Regina v Swindell* (October 9), you refer to a crime that is a remarkable product of judicial inventiveness: Preventing a burial. We are told, is a "very grave" offence against public order. It may be, but it did not exist until 1972 when it emerged in the form of a prosecution for conspiracy to prevent a burial.

Now, it seems to be a well-established additional charge where the evidence of homicide is rather weak, and steps have been taken to cover up an accidental death.

The courts are not supposed to create crimes in this way; it is against the rule of law. Yet they do it, and our over-filled prisons are stretched even further as a result.

Yours faithfully,

A. T. H. SMITH, Reader in Law, University of Durham, 50 North Bailey, Durham, October 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pressure from rank-and-file Tories

From Mr Patrick Cormack, MP for Staffordshire South-West (Conservative) and others.

Sir, On Friday, October 2, you carried a leader in which you made the point that the latest increase in interest rates was the last nail in the coffin of the Chancellor's economic strategy and advocated a pragmatic Conservative economic policy which would be based on, and not hostile to private industry. This, you suggested, would do something to shorten "the longest corner in the world which the Chancellor keeps telling us we are turning".

For some considerable time a significant number of Conservative members of Parliament have taken this same general view. Many have urged it in private and some of us in speeches in our constituencies and elsewhere. For very understandable and we hope honest reasons, we have been reluctant to take public issue with our own Government but now, as the Conservative Party assembles for the most crucial conference in its post-war history, we believe that the time for private protest is over. The party faithful assembled in Blackpool must feel able to debate our future strategy without fear or inhibition.

After two and a half years of Conservative government we believe that it is futile not to face the fact that all of our natural supporters, be they recent graduates, young couples struggling with their mortgages, small businessmen or major industrialists, have legitimate cause for feeling deeply disillusioned. We also firmly believe that only a Conservative Party is able to be that national party which could challenge their talents and meet their aspirations. Unless, however, there is a more sensitive appreciation of the economic facts of life as known to millions of individual voters there is a very real danger that defections from our ranks will be sufficient not to ensure the return of a new party which has yet to formulate any real policies, but of a Labour Government committed to the Brighton policies of two weeks ago, policies which would transform Britain into a servile socialist state.

We ask that people all too frequently vote against rather than for, and we know from our own experience in our constituencies that platitudes about keeping on to the end of the road, and even the scolding of voters, are no substitute for the sort of changes that you so cogently advocated and that are urgently needed. Yours faithfully,

PATRICK CORMACK, HUGH DYKES, ROBERT MCARDLE, DAVID MORRISON, House of Commons, October 10.

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, Criticism by Mr Heath should help inspire confidence in Mrs Thatcher's central economic strategy.

It was his about-turn in 1972, that unleashed the massive inflation which has ever since dogged economic policy by disrupting wage bargaining, eroding profitability and thereby aggravating unemployment. To conceal the damage for the time being he rigged the price index (to 12 per cent in 1973) by holding down the charges of nationalized industries (to 5 per cent) with the result that Mr Healey they rose over 40 per cent in a single year. Even so Mr Heath, who now bravely this at high interest rates, was forced almost to double the Minimum Lending Rate from 7½ per cent to 13 per cent between July and November 1973.

Canada's Constitution

From the Reverend Desmond Kinnitt

Sir, Would an analogy from the sporting world help your readers, and perhaps also Britain's parliamentarians, to grasp the thrust of our Supreme Court's decision on the Canadian constitution?

A while back a controversial incident involving a cricket match between two Commonwealth countries was reported in our newspapers — remarkably, really, for we are not truly a cricketing nation! I recall correctly, one of the teams needed to score six runs from the final ball of the game in order to win. The captain of the opposing side then consulted with the umpires as to the legality of a particular procedure. The umpire advised that the tactic was within the rules. Whereupon the captain instructed his bowler to deliver the ball underhanded, rolling it along the pitch in such a way as to prevent it being struck for the necessary boundary.

Listed buildings

From Mr P. J. Purton

Sir, The type of situation which Mr P. J. C. MacKarnes describes in his letter published in your edition of October 5 has in the past caused much anguish, waste of effort and expense for developers and others.

However, for the future such situations can be avoided. In consequence of strong representation made by the Law Society and others to the Secretary of State for the Environment, section 54(A) was added to the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 by virtue of paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980. This new section provides that where an application has been made for planning permission for any development involving the alteration, extension or demolition of a building, or where planning consent already exists, the Secretary of State for the Environment may on the application of any person issue a

A generation at risk

From the Headmaster of Clifton College

Sir, The Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University is surprised (October 10) by the failure of parents and grandparents to protest at the curtailment of opportunities in higher education. I am equally surprised at the silence of headmasters and headmistresses, with the honourable exception of the Headmaster of Winchester in his chairman's address to the Headmasters' Conference last month.

Of course one recognizes that some university departments in recent years have lowered their entry standards to maintain their numbers, while others (one suspects) have deliberately inflated their numbers in the expectation of government cuts; of course one must take account of the fall in numbers of overseas students at undergraduate level; of course one must recognize that in some areas there is unnecessary duplication of degree courses at universities and polytechnics.

Nevertheless, the scale and speed of the cuts is such that there will be large numbers of sixth-formers who a year ago embarked on A level courses in the expectation of following them at university and who will now be prevented from doing so, not because their performance has fallen short of predictions made at the start of the course, but because the hurdles have been raised half-way through the race.

One does not have to be a sentimentalist to feel that this is not only an injustice, but also a breach of faith. Yours faithfully,

STUART ANDREWS, Clifton College, Bristol, October 10.

Dockland bridge

From Mr Brian Cassibbi

Sir, I am sure that the news of the plan to build a bridge costing £102m will be a great boost to London's Dockland. However, why does it take so long in this country for these major projects to get moving?

You report (October 8) that the plans for the bridge were originally drawn up in 1969, and that the project is not expected to begin until 1987. Surely 18 years is too long a gestation period even by the standards of this country? I have to confess also to a certain scepticism about the price tag of £102m. The experience of major public projects ranging from the Concorde through the Humber Bridge to the Thames Barrier shows that the original promoters of these schemes invariably under-estimate. If the eventual cost of the bridge and its associated road works comes out at less than £309m or three times the initial estimate, I for one shall be amazed, surprised and delighted.

As one who was for a time the vice-chairman of the GLC committee responsible for the Thames Barrier, among other things I make another prediction. The project will be endlessly delayed by the same type of labour unrest and industrial blackmail as produced the postponement of the completion date for the Barrie to December, 1982.

Yours faithfully,

BRYAN CASSIDY, Member's Lobby, The County Hall, SE1, October 9.

Farmland priorities

From Sir Colin Buchanan

Sir, In "Land of their Fathers" (leading article, October 5) you point out that three-quarters of the surface of our country is still farmed, and you say that its primary function must be to provide food and timber.

But this very farmland, Sir, is the main habitat of many other life forms whose very existence is now at our mercy. I would reverse your priorities, and put conservation of the other life forms at the top, and food and timber second.

This way a great breath of humanity would come into farming, and I daresay we would be no more than a few bushels of wheat worse off as a result.

Yours truly,

COLIN BUCHANAN, Tunnel House, Box, Minchinhampton, Gloucester, October 8.

Small world

From Mr C. D. Cox

Sir, I am profoundly disturbed to learn of the BBC's proposal to make its World Service transmitter in East Anglia "more directional", thereby preventing people in Britain from listening. For those of us who prefer a detailed coverage of international news there is no satisfactory alternative.

If this is to happen perhaps the BBC would consider providing a regular world news magazine programme (similar to *Radio Newsweek* or *24 Hours*, for example) on domestic radio.

Yours faithfully,

C. D. COX, 14 Devonshire Mews West, W1, October 7.

Plum in the mouth

From Mr N. C. a Brassard

Sir, I have heard Bertie Wooster's surname pronounced Worcester and to rhyme with rooster. As a mark of respect in the centenary of P. G. Woodhouse's birth, I feel that it would be apposite to know the pronunciation that was intended. Do any readers of *The Times* remember hearing Woodhouse say Wooster?

Yours faithfully,

NIGEL A. BRASSARD, 14 Mascotte Road, Putney, SW15, October 10.

Aid for poorer nations

From Mr Eric McGraw

Sir, I refer to your Annual Review (October 2) in which you outline the grave social and economic imbalances in the world which 22 leaders at the forthcoming Mexico summit will endeavour to redress.

Your 8-page report, nearly 20,000 words, omits to mention the vital subject of rapid population growth and the dramatic impact this growth is having on the world's poorest nations.

The 31 least developed countries in the world from Afghanistan to the People's Democratic Republic

of Yemen are facing the prospect of their populations doubling within the next 25-30 years. In these 31 countries fertility rates are high compared to the rest of the less developed world and very high compared to the world as a whole. Unplanned pregnancies, too soon, too close, and too many are a major cause of the alarming rates of infant mortality — more than 200 per thousand births in at least five countries, compared to around 12 per thousand live births in most developed countries. Of these 31 countries only Botswana and Samoa have in fact mortality rates below 100 per thousand live births. Fifty per cent or more of

the populations of these countries is under the age of 15, demonstrating the scale of potential population growth and reinforcing the fact that the 2,000 million additional people expected in the world in the next 20 years will be born in nations least able to sustain their numbers.

To deal with population without development is an insult to deal with development without population is a deceit and a delusion.

Yours faithfully,

ERIC MCGRAW, Director, Population Concern, Margaret Pyke House, 27-35 Mortimer Street, W1, October 2.

US steel 'will fight flood of imports' from Europe

From Peter Hill, Toronto, Oct 12

Plans for a five-year pact in steel trade between the United States and other large steelmakers to avoid a lurch into protectionism were made here today amid growing tension and moves by America to halt the flood of steel from Europe.

US Steel, America's largest steelmaker, confirmed that it plans to apply for an anti-dumping investigation and imposition of countervailing duties on European and other steel imports at the end of this month.

American producers claim that subsidized European steel is being sold in the United States at up to \$100 a tonne below domestic prices, threatening widespread layoffs, cutbacks in production, and heavy losses.

Members of Eurofer, the European Economic Community steelmakers' cartel, most of whom will be named by US Steel, plan an emergency meeting here tomorrow to decide their policy.

Against the background of mounting pressure on the Reagan administration from the steel lobby, Mr. Frederick Jaicks, chairman of America's Inland Steel, delivered an uncharacteristically outspoken speech at the opening session of the International Association of Steel Institute's annual conference.

His message was clear—the American industry would defend itself with every means at its disposal unless imports were curbed.

Mr. Jaicks, in his address as the new institute chairman, attacked government intervention in the steel industry, especially in Europe.

He defended America's "trigger price" system, a mechanism designed to monitor the flow of imports by setting minimum prices below which imported steel cannot be sold.

He said: "If the trigger price mechanism collapses and recent developments suggest

that collapse may be closer than I think any of us want—the United States industry will have no alternative but to defend itself by whatever means are available, the potential adverse impact of disruptive imports on its efforts at revitalization being too great to otherwise."

He added: "Further disruption of the United States market should be avoided over the next five years since its domestic industry must generate enormous sums of capital through the private sector—unlike many other world steel industries—with which to modernize plant and equipment."

Mr. Jaicks said that if the EEC's efforts to cut capacity and eliminate subsidies were successful that would remove a major distortion in international steel trade. But, he warned, failure to lead to national steel industries invoking local trade laws, sooner rather than later.

Mr. Lenhard Holschuh, the institute's secretary general, forecast in his annual report that apparent steel consumption worldwide would be 7.5 million tonnes, reflecting a downward revision of forecasts made a year ago. Next year, institute experts expect consumption among industrialized countries to rise by almost 4 per cent to 380 million tonnes with most steelmakers believing that there will be a recovery from the recession next year.

But Mr. Holschuh stressed that the timing and strength of the recovery were subject to considerable uncertainty. For example, the British Steel Corporation, which is aiming to reach financial break-even by the end of next year, does not now expect demand to improve significantly until at least the third quarter and possibly the fourth.

Shipyards idle as 45,000 strike again

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Most of Britain's shipyards were at a standstill yesterday because of the third one-day strike by manual workers in protest at the closure of the Robb Caledon yard at Dundee.

Officials from the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service continued their attempts to bring the two sides together as more than 45,000 British Shipbuilders employees went on strike. The state-owned company said that about 1,000 more employees reported for work yesterday than on last Monday.

In addition to the one-day strikes the unions are also operating an overtime ban which is having a serious effect on ship repairing companies. About 600 workers have been laid off because of the dispute at repair yards on the Tyne and at Grangemouth.

Workers at the Vickers shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness again ignored the strike call but the unions said the response in other areas had been "quite good".

Mr. James Murray, General Secretary of the Boatbuilders' Union, last night accused British Shipbuilders of intransigence.

The 120 workers at Robb Caledon, who were threatened with redundancy because of the closure of the yard, are staging a sit-in. The unions claim that the management has broken an agreement reached in 1979.

Mr. Maurice Phelps, Director of Industrial Relations for BS, said the action was shaking confidence in the industry, putting jobs and job opportunities in jeopardy.

"That's no threat as far as we are concerned. It is just a fact of life. If work is not there, quite clearly employment opportunities are lost, and that is tragic for us and tragic for our employees," Mr. Phelps said.

The French-owned engineering firm UIC is to spend £24m "as a first step" towards modernizing facilities at its oil rig building yard at Clydebank, near Glasgow.

The plan was disclosed on the day it was announced that the company—which took over the former Marathon shipyard in the town early last year—had won a £4,000 award for the modernization of French-British cooperation.

There has been growing concern in the City at Imperial's poor profit performance and its attempts in recent years to diversify away from tobacco with the acquisition of eggs and poultry group J & B Eastwood for £40m in 1978 and Howard Johnson in America for £200m last year. Both acquisitions have been much criticized and Howard Johnson made only £2.4m profit in the latest six months.

Meanwhile group interest charges have been rising as a result of acquisitions. Imperial's debt rose to £25.4m in the latest half-year.

Imperial said the transactions were part of its policy of realising investments to concentrate resources on its core trading activities. The funds will be used first to cut borrowings and then to develop parts of the group.

In July, Mr. Malcolm Anson, Imperial's chairman, resigned from the group after 18 months after taking the £100,000-a-year post. His resignation came as the group shocked the City with a £41m downturn in half-year profits to £29.7m in the six months to April 30.

Mr. Anson's resignation was the result of growing disenchanted inside the company at its decentralized style of divisional management and he was replaced by Mr. Geoffrey Kent.

Mr. Kent formerly headed the group's Courage Brewery division and promised a tougher grip from the centre on the group's problems which led to the profits fall.

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Dodge City founder will net £17m from takeover

Woolworth to buy DIY chain

By David Hewson

Woolworth, which announced a pre-tax loss of £14.8m to last July, is to buy the Dodge City group of 32 do-it-yourself centres for £20.1m.

The deal, which is subject to the approval of the Office of Fair Trading, will net £17m before tax for 35-year-old Mr. Richard Northcott who founded the Dodge City chain seven years ago.

Mr. Northcott began the company on a loan after seeing DIY centres pioneered in America. He now owns 85 per cent of the company, with most of the remaining 15 per cent owned by institutions.

He will be leaving the company if the sale goes through, but last night he would not say what his plans were. He said, however, that he would not live abroad to avoid tax from the pay-out. "I like living here," he said.

"I have other things I am interested in. We have been very engaged in getting the deal to this stage and I do not want to commit myself on anything until it has reached completion."

The sale will give Woolworth what it claims is the first national chain in DIY, with a



Dodge City, whose strength is mainly in the North-east and mid-Wales.

total of 81 stores from Aberdeen to Jersey by the end of the year. It already owns 49 DIY stores through its B & Q (Retail) subsidiary which it bought for £16.8m last year. The acquisition of Dodge City will give the company a size and strength which will be essential for it to be able to compete successfully during the 80s and into the 90s," he said.

Mr. Geoffrey Rodgers, chairman of Woolworth, dismissed the notion that the success of the DIY chains was likely to take business out of the company's ailing high street stores. The company was doing what had been suggested for so long

by the institutions by taking a dynamic approach to acquisition.

Both Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Northcott made rosy predictions about the future of the DIY market.

Mr. Northcott said: "I think there will be considerable growth throughout the 1980s. But nevertheless it is true to say that there is a lot of competition that there will have to be rationalization of that competition."

He confirmed that there had been other interested parties chasing Dodge City, and added that he could have accepted or bettered Woolworth's offer from other sources.

Despite a 14 per cent rise in turnover—3 per cent of it from acquisition—the B & Q DIY chain—Woolworth's confirmed market fears with its disclosure in August of a first-half loss of £1,480,000.

This follows a £2m profit at the first-quarter sale. Poor weather and poor sales were blamed for the poor performance.

Although its "Crackdown" price-cutting promotion has improved sales, the gain has been less than hoped for.



Mr. Richard Northcott

Britain signs £200m pact with Algeria

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

About £200m worth of contracts will be on offer to British companies for a four-year crash programme of housing construction in Algeria after the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Algerian and British Governments.

The contracts will be subject to agreement on acceptable terms and performance criteria.

This was announced yesterday by Mr. Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, when he returned from a weekend visit to Algeria to sign the agreement. No

additional Government financing element was involved and the memorandum was effectively a declaration of intent by Algeria which preferred government-to-government negotiations.

In addition to the housing contracts, which were likely to involve building about 20,000 homes, the Algerian Government was planning a big expansion of vocational training. This could present an opportunity for British companies because up to 30 centres were to be set up, Mr. Rees said.

Before the suspension, the shares of Union Minière were quoted at BF 598 (£8.5) and those of Minotrem at BF 924 (£13.2). The market capitalization of each company was £8.5m and £17.2m respectively.

Société Générale seeks to control mining companies

Brussels, Oct. 12.—Société Générale de Belgique, Belgium's largest holding company, is seeking control of the holding company Finoutrem and the mining company Union Minière.

The three companies refused to comment, although Société Générale said a statement was expected in the next few days.

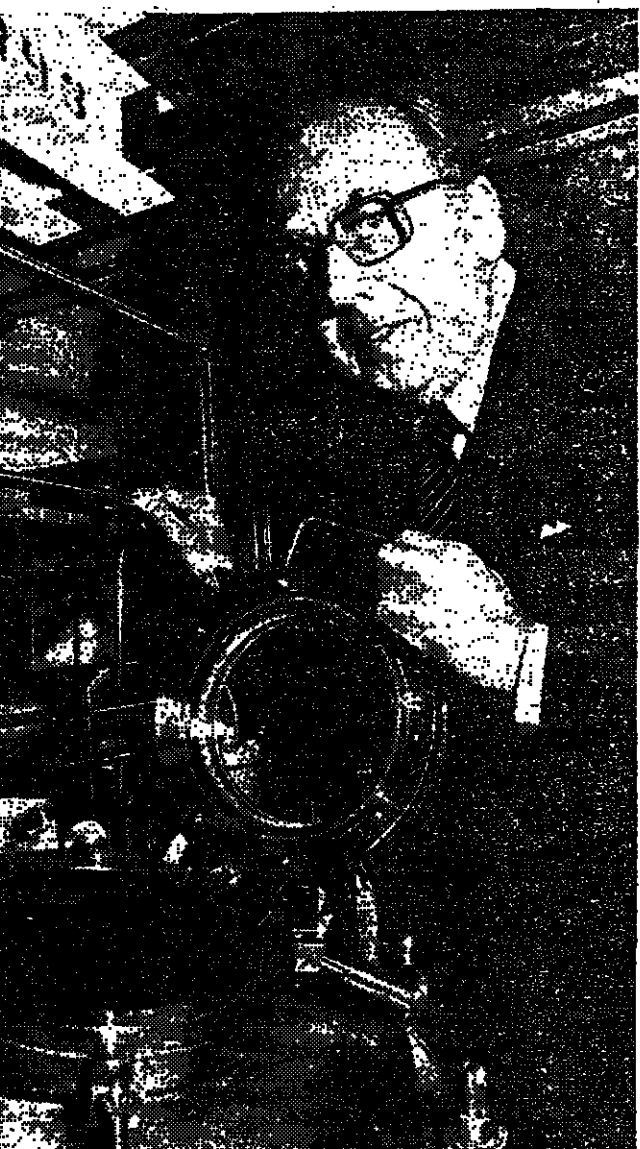
Société Générale's bid for control of the two companies is part of its attempt to consolidate its cash flow. Three weeks ago it won control of Tanks Consolidated Investments, a British-registered mining and industrial investment company, which held 17.6 per cent in Union Minière. This

brought Société Générale's indirect holdings in Union Minière to 35.1 per cent. It also has 41.25 per cent indirect holdings in Finoutrem.

Meanwhile, Société Générale has been buying up shares in the two companies recently, so the full extent of its holdings are not known.

Trading in the three stocks was suspended yesterday at the request of the companies but should resume tomorrow.

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Photograph by Chris Gregory

Glaxo profits up 32 pc

Sir Austin Bide, chairman of Glaxo, the pharmaceuticals group which yesterday announced better-than-expected figures for the year to June 30. Pre-tax profits rose 32 per cent to £87.33m and sales increased 24 per cent to £537m. The weak-

ness of sterling over the second half added about £8m to total profits. Glaxo attributed the increase to greater market penetration and better productivity in addition to the exchange rate gain.

Financial Editor, page 15

Stock Markets

FT Index 491.0 down 7.2
FT Gilt 62.20 down 0.49

Sterling

\$1,872.00 down 2.90 cents
Index 88.5 down 0.9
New York: \$1,865.00

Dollar

Index 106.2 down 0.2
DM2,185.00 down 70 pts

Gold

\$448.50 down \$4.50
New York: \$444.75

Money

3 mth sterling 151.15
3 mth Euro \$ 151.15
6 mth Euro \$ 151.15

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Atlantic Resc 50p to 245p
Clive Disc 3p to 32p
Douglas RM 7p to 71p
Grindlays Bldg 14p to 210p
Guthrie 13p to 888p
James M. Ind 41p to 26p
Jardine Mart 11p to 142p
Kinnross 20p to 75p
Lyles S. 9p to 71p
McLeod Russel 10p to 320p
Polly Peck 10p to 310p
Sotby PB 13p to 460p

Falls

AB Elec 8p to 106p
Churchbury Est 15p to 390p
Churchbury Est 15p to 390p
GTC 9p to 90p
Hawker Siddeley 12p to 288p
Hawker Siddeley 12p to 288p
Laser Service 7p to 92p
Marson Fin 5p to 63p
Racal Elec 10p to 410p
Stock Cove 10p to 335p

Spot crude edging up

Spot market prices for crude oil have risen noticeably in the past month with Arabian light crude, Nigerian and North Sea grades commanding premiums of up to 50 cents a barrel above official contract rates.

The benchmark Arabian light is selling on the spot market for as much as 40 cents a barrel more than the official price of \$32 a barrel, according to the Petroleum Intelligence Weekly.

Sterling slips

The pound failed to maintain last week's firmer trend yesterday. In quiet foreign exchange markets—United States markets were closed—sterling slipped 2.9 cents to \$1,872.00.

It also lost ground to other major currencies—it fell 7 pence to DM4,092.00, and its index against a basket of currencies ended 0.9 lower at 88.5.

The dollar was generally slightly easier as more United States banks reduced their prime rates to 18 1/2 per cent.

European stock exchange move

The creation of what would effectively be a European stock exchange, proposed by a French Member of the European Parliament, will be debated in Strasbourg today.

M. Francisque Collomb, a Christian Democrat, says there is increasing interpenetration of the national markets and argues that further links and integration between the EEC and computerizing their transactions could stimulate the trend.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Malaysia trade risk

Malaysia's virtual boycott of all British goods supplied to the country's public sector, could threaten a number of British tenders for contracts, including ones for hydroelectric schemes and up to two petrochemical complexes.

This was disclosed yesterday by Mr. Peter Rees, Minister for Trade (right), just back from trade talks in a number of Far Eastern countries.

The British Government had not yet been notified of the Malaysian plan to curtail all future Malaysian Government contracts with British companies, Mr. Rees said.

For the moment the British Government will wait to see how the scrutiny operation works in practice.

He admitted that the increase in fees in Britain affecting Malaysian students was a key issue with Malaysia but pointed out that the British business community in Malaysia was put-

223 print jobs to go

More than a third of the 624-strong workforce at the printing company of William Clowes and Sons, Beccles, Suffolk, are to lose their jobs, it was announced yesterday.

A total of 223 jobs will go. Mr. David Stanford, the managing director, blamed increased foreign competition and the recession.

George Outram director quits

Mr. Angus Clark resigned last night as managing director of George Outram, the Glasgow newspaper company which is part of Mr. Tiny Rowland's Lorrho empire, because he said he accepted responsibility for the company's recent failure to meet its targets and for forecast shortfalls in profits.

Mr. Clark, 52, had been managing director since 1974. He had been in charge of the company's operations in Scotland and the north of England.

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Plessey walkout

Nearly 1,700 hourly-paid workers at Plessey, the Northingham-based communications group, yesterday walked out in a lightning 24-hour strike over a breakdown in wage negotiations.

Workers on strike at Ramsones and Rapier, the Ipswich engineering company, yesterday decided to ignore a ballot organized by management to get them to resume work.

Ballot ignored

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UK drinkers outpaced

West Germans have supplanted Britons as the biggest spenders on alcoholic drinks, according to a seven-year study of drinks production and consumption in Europe by Market Studies, a subsidiary of Inter Company Comparisons.

But the United Kingdom's exports of cider, beer, and Scotch whisky, have given it a growing trade balance on alcoholic drinks that is second only to France.

Imports of vodka into Britain have increased, although the rest of the spirits market has declined. Imports of vermouth from Italy have also risen, although vermouth sales in Italy itself have declined sharply.

Young ruby port as an aperitif has become so popular in France that the French are now the biggest customers.

Currys, which opens its 500th shop in Cardiff next month, reported yesterday that pretax profits slipped from £4.49m to £4.23m in the six months ended July 29. Turnover rose from £109m to nearly £123m but the volume of goods sold remained static.

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Ferranti deal offers 300 jobs

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Three hundred new jobs are to be created by Ferranti in Manchester if an agreement between the British company and General Telephone & Electronics (GTE) of the United States is concluded successfully.

The agreement which is expected to be reached by the end of this year will result in GTE-designed private automatic branch exchanges (PABXs) and "intelligent" terminals being manufactured in Britain.

These electronic digital exchanges can be supplied and serviced by the private sector because of the British Telecommunications Act which came into force at the beginning of this month.

The GTE-Ferranti proposal is the first to create manufacturing jobs in Britain since the passage of the legislation, but it is the third agreement between a British telecommunications equipment manufacturer and a North American designer of a PABX.

General Electric Company (GEC) has an agreement to use the PABX design of the Canadian company, Northern Telecom, while Plessey has an agreement with Rolm from America.

Thorn-EMI is another British company expecting to exploit the new openings presented by the liberalizing legislation. The company will market Fujitsu modems for converting digital high speed computer signals into a form suitable for transmission on a telephone line.

Olivetti International S.A.

US \$15,000,000 9 1/2 %

15 Year guaranteed bonds of 1970 unconditionally guaranteed by Ing. G. Olivetti & C. S.p.A.

Redemption of US \$713,000—Redemption date November 15, 1981

According to art. 7 of Paying Agency Agreement and terms and conditions of the bonds we inform that the following bonds have been called for redemption at par:

52	1171	2874	4734	5894	8062	8787	9782	11408	12311	12950	13733	14291
151	1174	2880	4762	5924	8093	8778	9778	11408	12312	12950	13734	14292
186	1251	2937	4822	5985	8157	8797	9797	11435	12332	12970	13750	14300
230	1317	2985	4880	6030	8193	8837	9830	11465	12359	13000	13782	14330
286	1383	3108	4953	6099	8259	8907	9896	11505	12404	13045	13827	14369
321	1402	3200	4991	6136	8296	8944	9938	11536	12435	13076	13858	14399
339	1407	3203	4992	6137	8297	8945	9939	11537	12436	13077	13859	14400
365	1409	3204	4993	6138	8298	8946	9940	11538	12437	13078	13860	14401
381	1408	3215	4976	6151	8282	8926	9910	11535	12446	13086	13867	14407
391	1462	3321	4777	6187	8369	8988	10147	11603	12479	13100	13893	14431
400	1466	3340	4825	6207	8370	8989	10148	11604	12480	13101	13894	14432
436	1528	3454	4662	6254	8422	9028	10281	11614	12543	13102	13899	14437
448	1529	3477	4690	6279	8450	9056	10309	11638	12566	13126	13921	14459
464	1616	3485	5006	6283	8456	9062	10316	11644	12572	13132	13927	14465
483	1745	3531	5011	6334	8511	9077	10377	11654	12579	13139	13934	14471
552	1740	3533	5030	6350	8540	9098	10398	11679	12598	13158	13953	14490
583	1790	3553	5055	6388	8585	9145	10447	11705	12623	13183	13978	14515
600	1800	3565	5070	6403	8600	9160	10462	11720	12638	13198	13993	14530
569	1830	3618	5068	6402	8612	9151	10459	11709	12580	13180	13975	14512
590	1830	3618	5068	6402	8612	9151	10459	11709	12580	13180	13975	14512
110	1837	3639	5068	6391	8611	9143	10461	11713	12584	13181	13976	14513
620	1919	3711	5069	6621	8627	9081	10496	11808	12683	13263	14063	14589
639	1920	3712	5070	6622	8628	9082	10497	11809	12684	13264	14064	14590
632	1937	3741	5099	6669	8644	9087	11033	11938	12828	13262	14061	14587
639	1925	3787	5332	6669	8646	9111	11053	11875	12828	13262	14061	14587
658	1925	3787	5332	6669	8646	9111	11053	11875	12828	13262	14061	14587
688	1961	3828	5370	6944	8853	9182	11080	11988	12943	13262	14061	14587
682	1968	3828	5353	6967	8858	9173	11081	11989	12943	13262	14061	14587
709	2025	3869	5419	7004	8872	9228	11113	11943	12720	13310	14061	14587
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731	2070	4031	5420	7005	8877	9211	11149	11954	12733	13310	14061	14587
759	2084	4081	5482	7090	8884	9217	11163	11966	12744	13310	14061	14587
760	2088	4082	5576	7154	8891	9217	11163	11966	12744	13310	14061	14587
779	2108	4226	5576	7154	8891	9217	11163	11966	12744	13310	14061	14587
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Japan business mission warned on trade gap

By Simon Scott-Plummer

The most powerful Japanese business mission ever to visit Britain said yesterday that it would strive to redress Japan's trade imbalance with this country but declined to give details as to how this could be done, or how long it would take.

Mr Yoshihiro Inayama, honorary chairman of Nippon Steel and leader of the mission, emphasized the long-term strategy of promoting industrial cooperation between the two countries in the form of direct investment, joint research and development, and cooperation in third countries.

The Japanese believe this would help to revitalize British industry and thus lead to better balanced trade between

the two countries. According to figures released by the Confederation of British Industry last week, Britain's visible trade deficit with Japan amounted to £594m during the first half of this year, a rise of about 45 per cent over 1980.

Mr Inayama said the mission appreciated the British Government's wish to create employment but added that the level of Japanese investment here would depend on the strictness of conditions governing job creation, exports and the use of local components.

The mission, sent by the Japanese Government, and comprising members of the Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan (Keidan-

ren), met Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State for Trade, before leaving for Paris on the next leg of a European tour. Mr Rees told the delegation that something needed to be done rapidly about the trade imbalance and gave warning that protectionist pressures in this country could prove irresistible.

Mr Rees suggested that the Kaidamen propose to the Japanese Government a policy whereby the public and private sector in Japan should study British capital goods and buy them wherever possible.

He also handed over a list of about 20 proposals designed to facilitate exports to Japan.

Reprieve for some training boards

The Government is unlikely to abolish all of the 24 statutory training boards, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday. He told a conference of industrialists and educationists that he was not satisfied that voluntary arrangements would be effective in all industries.

Mr Tebbit, speaking at the British Association of Commercial and Industrial Education conference at Wembley, said that the Government was still making up its mind which boards would have to go.

"There is little doubt that some boards will disappear, but I am equally sure that there are key sectors in which they will be kept. I see no point in throwing away a useful contribution to training for purely ideological reasons", he said.

Mr Tebbit said that there had been a disappointing response from employers in some industries to the Government's invitation to them to propose voluntary training systems.

Sir Richard O'Brien, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, said that it was his personal view that the Government would not be able to achieve its objectives of reforming apprenticeship and extending education and training to all the under-19s while widening training opportunities for adults without some kind of statutory framework.

Royal wedding brings back a five-star boom

No room at the top inn

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

London hotels, the country's worst hit last year when profits fell 18 per cent, are reporting a sharp turnaround.

Five-star hotels appear to be benefitting particularly from an upsurge in visitors from Arab countries, a valuable part of their tourist and business trade because longer-than-usual stays are involved.

But since the beginning of last-month an unexpectedly big surge in commercial traffic is helping to push up occupancy rates in less expensive hotels, including those in other cities.

So far there are no signs that the London hotels will take advantage of the improvement to push up prices and recover some of their squeezed margins of the past year. Room rates have barely kept pace with inflation and some tariffs have dropped 3 to 5 per cent.

The Savoy Group said yesterday that demand for its five-star hotels had been rising since June. There had been an upsurge in visitors from North America, with the possibility that interest aroused by the Royal Wedding had led to more bookings, particularly in August, a traditionally quiet month which was surprisingly busy.

At the group's Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge and at Claridges in Mayfair, bookings are being turned away with the hotels booked fully for several weeks. The Savoy



Manfred Pieper, full hotels from Park Lane downwards

Hotel itself is almost full for most immediate dates.

Trusthouse Forte, Britain's biggest hotel operator, has seen a sharp rise in occupancy in both five-star and four-star hotels in London since the beginning of August. Much of the extra business seems to be coming from across the Atlantic.

In the other cities, the biggest upturn has been among the mainly three-star hotels specializing in short holiday breaks. There has been a considerable upturn in these bookings compared with the same time last year.

Hilton International, whose flagship hotel is in Park Lane, London but which also has hotels at Kensington and

Garwick, reports a peak in occupancy since the beginning of the summer in the five-star bracket, with hotels further down the scale now seeing equal rises in occupancy.

Hilton attributes the five-star turnaround to a massive return of the Arab trade. But the weaker pound could have been a factor with other tourists, including those from North America, where an increase in tourism is indicated.

Mr Manfred Pieper, Hilton International's executive assistant manager, said: "Now not only are the luxury hotels like the Park Lane Hilton full but so are quite a lot of the hotels further down market."

IN BRIEF

Six-point energy plan agreed

A six-point plan by industrial countries to expand production of synthetic fuels could significantly increase their energy self-reliance by the end of the century, the International Energy Agency said in a report issued today.

The report, by experts of the 21 member countries of the agency, was prepared after decisions taken by leaders of the seven main industrial nations at their economic summit in 1979 and 1980 to cut oil use and to maintain economic growth.

Energy ministers from all agency countries approved the report last June. It says the equivalent of an extra 1.6 to 2.6 million barrels of oil a day could be produced in the form of liquid fuels and gas by 1990 from six alternative sources to oil.

Bus company study

The Dept of Transport and the National Bus Company have appointed Touche Ross to study the bus company's operating subsidiaries, current capital debt and its funding.

Footwear quota talks

British and South Korean footwear manufacturers opened five days of talks in Seoul yesterday to set quotas on Korean shipments to Britain next year. This year's provisional annual quota was 16.82 million pairs.

£40m rail order

West German companies have won an order worth DM170m (£40m) to build 60km of urban railway for the Venezuelan town of Valencia, a spokesman for Siemens - a member of the consortium said. Construction will begin in spring 1982 and take up to two years.

Renault jobs threat

Renault said on Saturday it would halt assembly on several plants at its Boulogne-Billancourt factory yesterday, laying off 4,000 of its 13,600 workers for an indefinite period.

France takes stake

M. Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, and M. Jean-Luc Lagardere, president of the Matra Group, yesterday signed a protocol agreement giving the French state a 51 per cent stake in the high-technology and media group.

More bankruptcies

Japanese corporate bankruptcies in September rose 4.4 per cent to 1,422 from 1,362 in August but fell 11.5 per cent from 1,607 a year earlier, the Tokyo Commerce and Industry Research Company said.

Mill delay sought

China wants to delay the manufacture and assembly of a \$460m (£245m) steel mill on order from a German-led engineering consortium, and not cancel it as earlier feared, a consortium spokesman said.

Retail sales rise

West German retail sales rose a nominal 4 per cent in August from the year-earlier month, but were down 1 per cent in price-adjusted, or real terms.

£6m contract

The English Electric Valve Company of Chelmsford, a GEC subsidiary, has won a £6m contract from the Ministry of Defence to supply radio wave guides for a new electronic equipment. The tubes will be manufactured in Witham, Essex.

\$230m ships order

Swedish state-owned shipbuilding group, said its Kockum yard will build four container vessels worth \$230m (£125.7m), for National Shipping of Saudi Arabia.

Oil unity hope

Opec countries are agreed that they should reunify oil prices on a base price of \$34 a barrel except that there is some doubt over the attitude of Venezuela. Prices are now agreed between \$32 a barrel and \$40 a barrel. Oil ministers may hold an emergency pricing meeting before the end of this month.

Business appointments

EMI Films' new chief

Mr Brian North is the new managing director of EMI Films.

Mr John Kenworthy has been made managing director of McKee's Metals, Aldridge, from October 26.

Mr Ray Russell becomes a director of the consumer division of Mitsubishi Electric (UK).

Major Lewis Turner retires as chairman of West London brewers Fuller, Smith and Turner, on December 31. He will be non-executive president and will be succeeded as chairman and managing director by Mr Anthony Fuller.

Mr Christopher Burnett has joined the board of Whitecroft.

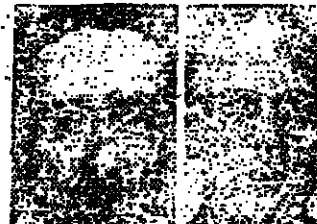
Mr Alan L. McDonald has been made a director of The Trust Union, PLC.

Mr Graham Tardiff is now president of Cambridge Reinsurance, the Bermuda subsidiary of National Sea Products of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

John R. Kane and Mr Brian N. Combs have been made vice-presidents.

Dr A. D. Milne and Mr W. I. Smith have joined the board of Comptrol International.

Mr Robert Froeman has been made group financial controller



Russell North

and company secretary of the Guild Group.

Mr John Beadle has become sales and marketing director, Mr Vic Hindson production director and Mr Ken Houldsworth personnel director of Freshbake Foods.

Mr David R. Newton and Mr Hugo Adler have joined the board of Chandler Wood (Insurance Brokers).

Mr Eddie Surville, technical director of the Birmingham company BKL Extrusions, a subsidiary of the GKN Group, has been elected president of the European Anodisers Association.

Now, for the good news...

Rank Hotels cut their room rates in London!

Our new low rates, available from November '81 to April '82 make Rank Hotels better value than ever.

This list shows most of London's very best hotels; every one of them has a four or five star rating and provides high standards of comfort and service - but just compare the prices. You can see our new rates are truly outstanding!

Next time you want a quality hotel in London - and value for money - come and stay with us. You're always welcome.

Royal Garden £39.50

Royal Lancaster £39.50

The Gloucester £39.50

Hilton Ind. London £68.00

Grosvenor House £65.00

Portman £60.00

Holiday Inn SW1 £59.00

Carlton Tower £58.00

Savoy £55.00

Bridge £55.00

Indish £53.00

itz £52.90

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STANDARD SINGLE ROOM - DAILY TARIF

Athenaeum £63.00

lin on the Park £82.80

Sheraton Pl. Fwr. £73.60

Churchill £71.40

Howard £68.00

de Park £67.00

land £66.70

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Company Discounts

Special discounted rates, available to companies, give even greater value. These rates are based on the number of nights booked by a company during a specified period. The more rooms that are booked, the greater the discount - in some cases as much as 30%.

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If you're coming to London for a weekend, take advantage of our special weekend rates. These offer you two nights for less than the price of one - for example, The White House is only £31. Our hotels in Bristol and Maidstone also offer weekends at £35.

All prices include breakfasts, service and VAT and in Bristol and Maidstone, lunch or dinner each day.

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Rank Hotels Ltd 51 Holland Street London W8 7JB. In London Athenaeum Hotel The Gloucester Royal Garden Hotel Royal Lancaster Hotel The White House Bristol Unicorn Hotel. Maidstone Great Darnes Hotel Brussels Royal Windsor Hotel Paris Hotel Westminster Aosta Hotel Valle d'Aosta Sardinia Hotel Romazzino Tenerife Hotel Medano Detroit Hotel St Regis.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Building Societies hit back at banks

Last week the building societies bowed on masse to the forces of competition, and held their mortgage rate at 15 per cent despite a squeeze in margins. This week the Woolwich, one of Britain's biggest, is doing likewise on its own account, with a decision to abandon the practice of charging higher rates for larger mortgages, which it brought in reluctantly and with little success a mere 18 months ago. The Woolwich, of course, does not admit to beating a retreat, but rationalizes its decision instead in terms of a desire to treat all borrowers alike. But the fact is that the banks have cut such a swathe through the new mortgage market for amounts in excess of the £15,000 at which most societies start to charge in excess of the BSA-recommended rate, that the latter find themselves left with a disproportionate share of small loans, which are expensive to administer and do not provide the higher returns required to finance more attractive savings schemes.

The Woolwich solution is likely to prove attractive to other societies, although there are some diehards who believe that differential rates are fair, and others who maintain that they are necessary if life is not to be made more difficult for the first-time buyer than it is already. The problem is, of course, that the building societies still have to provide an adequate return to investors increasingly tempted by the goodies offered by the banks and the Department for National Savings. To do so it may be necessary, as the Woolwich hinted yesterday, to raise the rate charged to borrowers in general: so the net result of the introduction of competition from the banks may be that the average borrower will have to fork out more. But, of course, that merely reflects a small adjustment of the scales of justice in favour of the investor — who has subsidized the house buyer, for the sake of sale returns and easy access to his money, throughout the whole of the last two decades.

It is competition for funds, rather than competition for mortgages, which has triggered off the revolution in which the building societies now find themselves unwillingly embroiled. It is unfortunate for the building societies that the banks have started to fight for deposits at a time when there is no great demand for borrowings elsewhere: it leaves the banks free to attack on two fronts at the same time. But it looks, in retrospect, as though the building societies have had twenty years in comfort in Cloud Cuckoo Land: it couldn't last.

Harrisons & Crossfield Political problems

Politics dominate the future of Harrisons & Crossfield. It is one of the last great plantations and trading companies domiciled in the United Kingdom not yet to have felt the force of the Malaysians' determination to bring the natural resources of the country under their own control. Guthrie was taken over in a lightning raid that prompted the Stock Exchange in London to change the rules. Barlow Holdings and Dunlop then did swift deals with the Malaysians whereby they essentially surrendered control in their plantation interests in Malaysia though keeping a small equity stake.

Yesterday Harrisons Malaysian Estates, which is 80 per cent owned by H & C, produced results for the three months to June. The figures are almost irrelevant. What happens to HME, and therefore H & C, is the question. Mr John McLeod, chairman of HME, made appropriate diplomatic noises about talks with the Malaysian authorities continuing, though no percentage has yet been fixed for the potential Malaysian holding.

Mr McLeod and other senior executives at H & C should be listened to and believed, but the group has not achieved its position today and survived for so long by ignoring the realities of the business climate, either at home or abroad. And the realities are quite simply that the Malaysians have suddenly become extremely sensitive to anything affecting their relations with Britain. Speculation exists that H & C is stalling talks in the hope — well founded — that recent years — that on balance the value of plantations in Malaysia rises steadily.

Therefore, when they strike a deal, so it is argued, the net asset value of the group will be that much higher than it is now. Outside estimates put it at close on £10 while H & C's market price is £8.25.

The whole issue boils down to the amount of pressure the Malaysians can put on H & C to strike a deal. They are not in the same position as they were with Guthrie — they do not possess the same strong strategic share stake and their resources are not limitless. But they could make life difficult for H & C.

Glaxo Looking for growth

Although rumours of a large rights issue have had little impact on the Glaxo share price in recent months, the market was pleased enough yesterday to see its fears dispelled. Sentiment towards a company whose shares were as low as 180p last year was also improved by a stronger than expected profit performance in the 12 months to June 30. Glaxo's 32 per cent pretax gain to £87.3m against most estimates of £81m was sufficient to add 10p to the shares which closed at 404p. Even after stripping out an exchange rate gain of £8m profit growth was still around 20 per cent, so with sales rising 24 per cent to £537m excluding the Vestric wholesaling side, margins were little changed.

The growth derived from a combination of price rises, extra productivity and increased sales volume. While profits from Japan were higher, partly because of the weakness of sterling in terms of the yen, Glaxo also broadened its product base and witnessed higher volumes. In the all-important United States market, where Glaxo is expecting a large breakthrough in the middle of the decade, Ventolin, the anti-asthma drug is selling well. Like other index stocks, Glaxo's share price recovery is anticipated by the market, but it is not yet clear whether the company has just reported only take the company back to the level attained in 1977.

Glaxo has not come to the market for funding in some years and at present apparently has little need to add to the balance sheet. But Glaxo is still spending more than it earns in the United States and a rights issue in the near future would not come as a surprise.

Currys Hard pounding for retailers

Currys' report on the half year to last July clipped 2p off the shares yesterday, but at 158p the yield of 4 per cent is looking, as ever, two or three years ahead of when the expensive new ventures into television rental, micro computers, and discount stores pay off. Meanwhile, this exciting future contrasts with a mundane present. Sales rose 12.5 per cent to £122.7m in money, but not at all by volume. Price increases preserved gross profit margins and sales space went up by 1 per cent or so. However, pretax profits fell from £4.49m to £4.43m thanks to a £396,000 extraordinary item for redundancies; and an increase of more than half to £1.89m in depreciation combined with a fall of roughly the same percentage to £634,000 in interest receivable.

Both reflected Currys' massive investment in diversification, and a consequent run down of the cash hoard. The half time dividend is unchanged at 1.07p. Earnings per share were 8.0p and current cost earnings 4.4p. The group does around one third of its business in the first six months and the rest in the second half year. It is obviously concerned about dearer interest rates and mortgages.

So prospects for Christmas are wide open, though it is something that business after dropping in the summer picked up a bit in October. A big television promotion is planned. If, then, the group manages to earn more than 1980-81's £12.3m pretax profit, it will only be by a whisker. As before, the case for the shares rests largely on expansion into rental where the group has the advantages of ready-made outlets and a wide range of sets to offer customers.



Queuing to see a film in the early fifties when cinemas' popularity was booming and (right) managements today are finding it increasingly difficult to tempt in customers.

How long till the last picture show?

Cinema audiences may fall below the 100 million mark this year. David Hewson reports

A cinema seat in the West End usually costs between £3.50 and £4. For less than 15p a film-goer living in parts of inner London can watch 54 different feature films a month, piped to them through a cable television set in their front room.

A few of the titles — *Dogs*, a canine version of *Jaws*, for instance — might be overpriced, but the same cannot be said of some of the others such as *Gone With The Wind*, *The Deer Hunter*, and *Star Trek*.

The cable system is available to only 170,000 homes in London, but a good number who are denied it will have video tape recorders and belong to a club which supplies, for between £2 and £5 a time, tapes of recent films for home viewing. Even with the cost of the recorder, the price for a family of four would still work out at less than the average trip to a West End cinema.

So it should come as no surprise that, while British film-making is going through one of its more buoyant periods, the conventional film-watching business faces an increasingly shaky future.

Last June, the latest month for which figures are available, admissions fell by 23 per cent, nationally when compared with the same period in 1980. The situation has probably improved a little since then, with the release of a number of box office successes, such as *For Your Eyes Only*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Clash of the Titans* and *Excalibur*. But the historical trend, which has seen a fall in cinema admissions from 1,500 million per annum in 1950 to 101 million last year, is continuing. It now seems certain that this year cinema admissions will fall below the 100 million mark.

Like all milestones, it is an arbitrary figure. What must worry cinema proprietors more is the certain knowledge that the cause of the decline in audiences — television, home video and pay television

networks — will have an even more cataclysmic effect on their income in coming years.

Last June, the Rank Organisation decided to close 29 unprofitable Odeon and Gaumont cinemas, reducing its screens from 596 to 231 in the 30 years since 1950. With the video revolution still in its infancy, it seems appropriate to ask how much of the traditional British cinema network will survive until the end of the decade.

Part of the answer should become apparent within the next four weeks when the results are in from a price-cutting experiment which started yesterday at 16 West End cinemas with 53 screens. As attempts to improve audiences go, it is hardly revolutionary — the cinemas will reduce the admission price on Mondays, traditionally the slackest day of the week, to 10p. But in terms of the industry's traditionally conservative approach to pricing it represents a breakthrough.

CIC, the country's largest film distributor, which also owns six West End cinemas, suggested the scheme after a similar price-cutting exercise by its international sister company had shown promising results in Paris.

Mr Christopher Carr, CIC's advertisement and publicity director, says that the company persuaded a number of other West End managements to take part in the Monday cheap rate scheme for a month. If it succeeds, it could be extended to attract more custom for other flat parts of the week.

An interesting aspect of the

promotion is that it will make the West End cinemas taking part cheaper than some of their counterparts in the suburbs. This may explain why Rank, which has a large number of provincial screens, is not taking part.

However successful the scheme is, it will do no more than arrest the decline in specific areas of the cinema screen business. What is more, it does not reinforce the position of the West End screens as prestige venues with facilities unrivalled elsewhere.

A well-equipped West End screen offers a film shown in 70mm widescreen format, often backed by Dolby stereo sound. The difference between watching a modern, highly technological film such as *Star Wars* in this format and in a conventional local cinema is usually as great as the difference between a film on television and one on a wide screen.

It is this technological

AVERAGE WEEKLY CINEMA ADMISSIONS

	1980	% change 80 over 79	1981	% change 81 over 80
January	2.12	-12	1.89	-11
February	2.18	-10	1.97	-11
March	1.87	-15	1.59	-16
April	1.99	-19	2.28	+20
May	1.76	-22	1.58	-5
June	1.75	+2	1.34	-23

A quarrel that could cost Britain dear

A trading tiff that threatens to create a more serious rift between two long-established commercial partners has broken out between Britain and Malaysia.

Whitehall and the Stock Exchange were taken aback earlier this month when Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, announced that all future government purchases of British goods and services must first be cleared by his office.

Both government officials and company representatives in London are unwilling to jump to any conclusions about the Malays' action, which was confirmed by the Secretary of State for the United Kingdom, Mr Geoffrey Howe, in a letter to Mr Mahathir's National Organisation, and will be supported by all 13 states. But the legacy of post-colonial mutual misunderstanding is evident.

British business men talk blithely of the Malaysians being "oversensitive" and "unused to criticism", while angry Malays in

Kuala Lumpur accuse the British of being interested only in money.

There appear to be three principal reasons for the breakdown in relationships. First, and probably most important, the withdrawal of foreign students at British universities was particularly hurtful to the Malaysians, whose cultural and business life has probably remained more closely tied to Britain than that of any other former colony.

Secondly, the Stock Exchange's decision to change the rules governing takeovers came almost immediately after the Malaysian Government agency Permodalan had launched its successful "dawn raid" to take over Guthrie Corporation in the space of three hours on September 7.

Although the Stock Exchange had been planning to change the rules for a long time, the decision to allow a company a week's grace to prepare a defence against

takeover was seen as a specifically anti-Malaysian move.

Third, the two governments are involved in a wrangle over whether a fleet of Boeing 747s bought from British Airways can be used to full capacity on the London route.

A further factor is undoubtedly the personality of Dr Mahathir, who became Prime Minister in July and is the first Malaysian leader not to have been educated in Britain. Authoritative sources in Kuala Lumpur said yesterday that anger was directed at British firms rather than at the British Government.

When tuition fees went up in Britain, a school-leaver fund to help those caught by the increases was set up. But the British firms "refused to help fund it", the sources said. But in a similar exercise to support a professorial chair at an American university, American firms had been quick to respond to appeals.

This was specifically contradicted by Mr Peter Rees,

Britain's Minister for Trade, who said that a group of British businessmen was seeking a meeting with Dr Mahathir to put to him just such a scheme for supporting Malaysian students.

At the same time there is clearly bad feeling about what is seen as Britain's failure to support Malaysian aspirations. One sore point appears to be British lobbying for the International Natural Rubber Organisation (INRO) headquarters to be in London, although Malaysia as the leading rubber producer insisted that Kuala Lumpur would have been the ideal choice.

The sums at risk are large. Last year Britain exported £223.5m worth of goods to Malaysia, making that country one of our most important trading partners in the Far East. Three quarters of British investment in South-east Asia is in Malaysia.

The visit of Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, to Kuala Lumpur earlier this month was intended to set up major orders from British firms for aircraft, ships and equipment for the £2,000m Malaysian defence budget up to 1985, Britain's other main exports

are machinery and transport (£127.3m last year), chemicals (£30.6m) and manufactured goods (£27.3m).

British companies are also understood to be tendering for hydro-electric and petrochemical schemes and for power stations.

For the moment all British efforts are being concentrated on diplomatic bridge-building — which unexpectedly became the main feature of Mr Nott's visit. Yesterday Department of Trade officials stressed how friendly and constructive their discussions with the various Malaysian ministers had been, in contrast to Dr Mahathir's attitude — he insisted on talking Malay, translated by an interpreter.

"We must be cool about this", Mr Rees said.

There has clearly been a change in attitude on the part of the Malaysians, who face the worldwide recession with a confidence soundly based on their vast mineral resources — palm oil, rubber, timber and natural gas. It may well all require at least a change of tone on the part of the British.

Rupert Morris and M. G. G. Pillai

Business Diary: Trees Company or Against the Grain

John Rose probably has no pretensions to be a latter-day Robin Hood. But he would probably be quite happy to regard the Lords Mansfield and Ferrers as joint reincarnations of the Sheriff of Nottingham.

It is, of course, pure coincidence that Rose, who is leading the Labour movement's campaign against "privatisation" in the Forestry Commission, works in Sherwood Forest. As an employee of the commission he is one of the large minority of members of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers who do not work on farms. He has been president of the union since 1978.

Lord Mansfield, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, is responsible for the Forestry Commission estate in Scotland, while Lord Ferrers does a similar job in England. Lord Mansfield says that the sale of commission land will save public money from being locked up in long-term investment. Rose, whose union gave the original impetus to the Labour Party's confused policy for nationalizing farm land, regards the forest sale as a threat to jobs "Profit for the speculator and damn all for those who will lose jobs where there is little of hope of finding others" is his verdict.

Bottle party

The appointment of Detta O'Carthain to the new post of futurelogist at the Milk Marketing Board for England and Wales marks a new departure in that powerful organization's efforts to turn itself into a business. The appointment of Miss O'Carthain comes only shortly after that of Geoffrey Eyr, joint assistant managing director of the Dickinson Robinson Group, and shows at least that the dairy farmers who run the board have cash to spare.

Bar has been given the new post of chief executive to the board, which is the oldest and largest of the five compulsory cooperatives which act as virtual monopoly suppliers of milk in the United Kingdom.

Bar says that Miss O'Carthain will lead a small unit "charged with looking further ahead than is possible in normal business planning". The board has good reason to want to escape from the present milk sales are falling remorselessly, butter demand has been dropping for years, despite heavy EEC subsidies, and pressure from imports like Irish milk and New Zealand butter is still fierce.

Miss O'Carthain — the board's second acquisition



Milk maid: Milk Marketing Board's Detta O'Carthain.

from the Unigate meat and dairy group. She left her job as group corporate planning executive there in April, about two years after the group had sold its 16 creameries to the Milk Marketing Board.

The farmers who lead the board realize that there is no future in simply dumping bottles of milk on doorsteps. Growth in milk demand is much more likely to come from manufactured products, like frozen cakes and chilled frothy desserts. The board has set up a division to make and sell such things.

Irish-born Miss O'Carthain joins the board after a 20-year business career, spent mostly in Britain. She is one of the

five independent advisers appointed by Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, to offer guidance on making the British food industry more alive to marketing.

She and Walker share the same outspoken self-confidence and the many worthy agricultural retailers who have served the board for much of its 48 years can expect to hear precisely what their new head of strategic planning thinks of them.

Her task will be made harder by a persistent belief in the food industry that she is Walker's agent of the month. Despite the denials of both of them that he has been writing her scripts, a speech she made in January about the need for a new state-financed marketing body for food has convinced many that Walker is using her to utter thoughts that would not be welcomed in 10 Downing Street.

DA, BA, LA

David Amos is a cinema fan who goes to some lengths to catch the latest films: he is a British Airways' marketing executive whose job it is to select those which are to be shown during the airline's long-distance flights around the world.

As such, he goes to the studios in Los Angeles four

times a year and spends the whole week locked up in darkened viewing rooms evaluating up to 20 new films each time.

Out of these visits comes BA's selection, based on what is entertaining, but hedged about by judgments on sex, politics, violence, and such matters as whether the film shows an airliner on the verge of disaster. This might not go down too well with businessmen relaxing with a gin and tonic for the long-haul.

Amos thinks that BA passengers would be prepared to take a less far-flung tour than the "A" and "U" certificate films which are generally shown. Amos's personal view is that although customers' personal tastes must be respected, 90 per cent of them would probably enjoy the ultimate aviation disaster film, *Airplane*. He is working on a scheme under which BA's long-distance flights will show four different films at the same time, instead of the same one in four different cabins.

Standardman

When I began ringing around to find information technology expert James Merriman yesterday I expected to reach him in some high-tech hidey-hole. In fact, I found him in his greenhouse.

Merriman is to chair the new information systems council of the British Standards Council, whose job it is to see that we get in quick with the same generally agreed standards on microchips as we have with chip-pans (BS 3456 Part III, Section 3.16).

Standards position in information technology today, Merriman told me, is much the same as it was in the early days of the railways — and he wants to see that we do not get shunted off into a siding as did the Australians.

"Because each state could choose a different line gauge," he said, "until quite recently the goods couldn't be delivered without expensive and time-wasting transshipment from one line to another."

Merriman, former president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, says that he does not want the same thing happening here with the electronic tracks carrying information, and adds that industry and government do not have much time to get it right.

Ross Davies

F. COPSON CO. LTD.

Results in brief	1981	1980
	£	£
Group Turnover	5,693,272	6,159,053
Profit before Tax	191,818	243,247
Dividends paid (after waivers)	29,400	25,200
Earnings per 5p share	3.83p	3.31p

* Group Profit before Tax compares with the previous year's all time record. The dividend of 1.4p per share is an increase of 16.6% on the previous year and is covered 2.74 times. Shareholders' funds now stand at a value of 44p per share.

Present trading conditions are far from easy but we continue to secure major contracts in spite of fierce competition... but I do not look for any major improvement within the industry until the end of 1982.

F. Copson, Chairman & Joint Managing Director
ACTIVITIES:—Suppliers of heating equipment and plumbing and sanitaryware goods. Installers of warm air heating equipment.
Erdington—Birmingham

Nervous start to account

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



BRITISH FUNDS				COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL				SHIPPING				MINES			
High	Low	Price	Change	High	Low	Price	Change	High	Low	Price	Change	High	Low	Price	Change
1000	1000	1000	0.00	1000	1000	1000	0.00	1000	1000	1000	0.00	1000	1000	1000	0.00
1001	1001	1001	0.00	1001	1001	1001	0.00	1001	1001	1001	0.00	1001	1001	1001	0.00
1002	1002	1002	0.00	1002	1002	1002	0.00	1002	1002	1002	0.00	1002	1002	1002	0.00
1003	1003	1003	0.00	1003	1003	1003	0.00	1003	1003	1003	0.00	1003	1003	1003	0.00
1004	1004	1004	0.00	1004	1004	1004	0.00	1004	1004	1004	0.00	1004	1004	1004	0.00
1005	1005	1005	0.00	1005	1005	1005	0.00	1005	1005	1005	0.00	1005	1005	1005	0.00
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1009	1009	1009	0.00	1009	1009	1009	0.00	1009	1009	1009	0.00	1009	1009	1009	0.00
1010	1010	1010	0.00	1010	1010	1010	0.00	1010	1010	1010	0.00	1010	1010	1010	0.00
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Golf: Ballesteros kills a European debate stone dead

Langer sets sights on new trail

Severiano Ballesteros killed stone dead the debate as to who is the best golfer in Europe by his victory in the Wentworth match play tournament at the weekend. He had only one obvious challenger, Bernhard Langer, German trail blazer and he destroyed that threat with an overwhelming semi-final victory, before coming from behind to beat Ben Crenshaw in the final.

For reasons associated not with the game of golf but with sordid squabbles among committee members and company directors, he was not chosen for the Ryder Cup match against the United States at Walton Heath last month yet at Wentworth he beat two members of the American team, one of whom had put out a third.

When Ballesteros was asked at Wentworth who was the best player in Europe he replied: "Neil Coles". It was an answer that cunningly embraced a hint of diplomacy, since it avoided any comparison between him and Langer, a touch perhaps of malice, since Coles is a "leading member of the establishment here, with whom he has been at odds, and a barrow load of wit, since Coles, for all his enduring reputation, is no longer in the same league.

Yet all this should not mask the fact that 1981 has been a hugely successful year for Ballesteros, during which he established a record of £81,036 for official prize money. It surpassed by £15,000 Sandy Lyle's winning total in 1980.

Ballesteros won £35,154 which does not include the £30,000 he won at Wentworth, since the match play tournament does not fall within the ambit of European Tournament Players' Division (ETPD) tournaments. New to the scene, Ballesteros fourth place at Wentworth and the proceeds of a car worth nearly as much for planting his tee shot closest to the second hole.

But, Hispanophiles will argue, Ballesteros played in only seven ETPD tournaments for an average prize of £5,022 compared with Langer's 17 tournaments for an average of £4,767. Langer's supporters will counter with the claim that their man had a far superior record over the five occasions when both players participated. Their placings were:

Event Ballesteros Langer
French Open 2 Tied 3
Scandinavian Open 2 Tied 3
Open 2 Tied 39
European Open Tied 2 9
Bob Hope 1 Tied 18

In addition both players, by personally satisfying coincidence, won their own national championships. The single most impressive performance was certainly Langer's second place to Bill Rogers in the Open at Sandwich, a result that established him as the same as Ballesteros as a man with the character as well as the golf to reach the commanding heights of the game.

We are bound to see progressively less of Langer, just as

we would hope to see more of Ballesteros, now that his quarrel with the ETPD has been settled, or at least patched up in such a way as to produce a wary truce. Ballesteros is certainly unwilling to commit himself, too much to the United States, partly perhaps because of a series of humiliating failures there this year, but Langer is looking forward to that challenge.

Like Ballesteros, but unlike Nick Faldo, for instance, he has to weigh the cost of taking an American player's card, assuming he does well enough to earn one. Once that step is taken, he would have to play exclusively in the United States unless he received a special release or was playing in his own country. But his own country presents only one opportunity (Spain offers Ballesteros only two), whereas Faldo has more than a dozen.

Langer's Ryder Cup place opens the way for an attack on American circuit early in 1982 because it gives him free exemption and his position at the head of the order of merit will command places in the "majors". Beyond that, sponsors will be ready, even avid, to offer a place to a man who can add an unusual international flavour to their tournaments.

Langer is looking forward not only to a new talent but also to a new environment which provides much in the way of creature comforts. He took part in the World Series at Akron Ohio in August because of his position in the order of merit here and reported afterwards that playing in the United States compared with Europe is like the difference between a five star hotel and a three star hotel. They look after you so well.

It will be fascinating to follow Langer's progress over there and to test one's judgment that he has everything it takes to succeed. For all his average physique he will rarely be outthrust and because of his consistency he will rarely be outmanoeuvred through the green. His short game is sound and his putting, once the source of recurring nightmares, is now as reliable as most.

Three factors, the three Ms, contributed to curing his "yips" on the green, the method, the man and the means. He had to iron out a flexibility in the wrists, which he accomplished under the tuition of Willi Hoffman, a professional teacher at Ulm, near Stuttgart; he had to submit to the drudgery of countless hours at a stretch on the practice green, a routine that would have destroyed anyone with less than his total dedication; and he picked up for a fiver a putter in Clive Clark's shop at Sunningdale that seemed perfectly to meet his needs. One day "and" another, all three developments added confidence to his putting stroke and that was the final hurdle removed.

John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent



Europe likely to see more now of Ballesteros (above) and Langer, looking forward to a new challenge on the US circuit where he will be able to increase his earnings.



Photographs by Malcolm Clark

Law Report October 13 1981

Court of Appeal

Court has discretion over consent orders

Siebe Gorman & Co Ltd v Pneupac Ltd
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Templeman

[Judgment delivered October 12]

The fact that a master's order for the inspection of documents within 10 days is expressed to be made by consent with a clause that "in default of complying with the order the plaintiffs' claim... be struck out" does not exclude the court's discretion to grant an extension of time under the Rules of the Supreme Court, Order 3, rule 5, where the parties have not agreed to exclude the court's discretion under that rule.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by plaintiffs Siebe Gorman & Co Ltd of Windsor, Berkshire, against Mr Justice Farquharson's order of July 15, 1981 that the decision of Master Warren of 27 refusing to order that the plaintiffs should pay to the defendants, Pneupac Ltd, of St George Street, Westminster, London, the costs of the action and extending the plaintiffs' time for compliance with the master's order of March 19 for seven days be set aside. The order of Master Warren was restored.

The Rules of the Supreme Court, Order 3, rule 5 provide: "(1) he court may on such terms as it thinks just, by order extend or abridge the period within which a person is required to do anything, or by any judgment, order or direction to do any act in any proceedings."

Mr Patrick Phillips, QC and Mrs Anyadike-Danes for the plaintiffs; Mr Christopher Bathurst, QC and Mr John Baldwin for the defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case which concerned consent orders was of much interest to practitioners. Sixty years ago, in 1920, the plaintiffs claimed £159,281 in respect of goods detained. After the "close of pleadings, with a defence and counter-claim, the defendants took out a summons for the discovery of specific documents. The return date was March 10, 1981. It was the first application for specific documents.

The summons asked for discovery of the documents within 10 days "and that in default of complying with the order the plaintiffs' claim against the defendants be struck out." When the summons was due to be heard, solicitors on each side went before the master. The defendants' solicitors' affidavit as to what happened stated that just before attending before the master it was expressly agreed that in return for the plaintiffs consenting to an order, the master would be requested to order the time period of 10 days to run from the date of the mutual inspection of documents.

The master's order of March 10, 1981 said that "by consent it is ordered that the plaintiffs do within 10 days from inspection file an affidavit; and concluded with the default clause. On March 26, 1981, the plaintiffs' solicitors

asked for a further three weeks' extension as the trial date was not until March, 1982. The defendants' solicitors replied on March 27 saying that inspection had taken place on March 16 and counsel had advised that the plaintiffs' claim had been struck out.

The plaintiffs took out a summons for the extension of time after the defendants' summons for costs. Master Warren gave the plaintiffs seven days to comply with the order of March 10 and dismissed the defendants' summons.

On appeal the judge had thought that a "consent order" meant that there was an agreement which was binding, that effect had to be given to it and that the action should be struck out.

It was time that it was made clear that an order such as had been made in the present case in many cases did not evidence a contract at all. Lord Greene, Master of the Rolls in *Chandler v. Nelson* (1942) 2 KB 321, 324, pointed out the great difference between the consent order in the technical sense and an order which embodies provisions to which neither party objects. "In every case it was a question whether there was a real contract or an order to which neither side objected." *Chandler v. Nelson* (1942) 2 KB 321, 324, 328. There was a contract with which the court would not interfere.

There were a number of cases culminating in *Chanel Ltd v F. W.*

Woodworth & Co Ltd ([1981] 1 WLR 485) which could and should be explained on the basis that there was a real contract between the parties.

But in the present case the order headed "by consent" was not a true contract, but a case where one party was not objecting to the order sought as often happened in the "bear garden". Where parties agreed to an order of the court, or did not object, the order provisions were always subject to Order 3, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Master Warren had acted as all masters would have done.

LORD JUSTICE EVELEIGH, agreeing, said that he was not satisfied that the parties had agreed to exclude the court's discretion to give further time under Order 3, rule 5.

The order being by consent was unappealable but that did not mean that the power of the court under that rule was excluded.

LORD JUSTICE TEMPLEMAN, also agreeing, said that the conversation outside the court, which was intended to create, and did not create, a binding contract; and it did not oust the court's jurisdiction to grant an extension of time.

His Lordship deplored the attempt to turn a casual conversation outside the court into a binding contract.

Solicitors: Ashurst Morris Crisp & Co; Mortimer Rabin & Co.

Welfare reports in custody cases

Cadman v Cadman
Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Oliver and Mr Justice Purchas

[Judgment delivered October 9]

It was doubtful whether jurisdiction existed in a custody case for the court to appoint a social worker from outside the court welfare service. The court should not depart from the usual practice of relying on the court welfare officer's report.

That view was expressed by the Court of Appeal in an appeal by a mother from an order of Judge McLellan, sitting at Portsmouth County Court on September 28, 1981, who gave custody of the child of the marriage to the father. Their Lordships ordered a re-hearing of the case by a judge of the Family Division of the High Court in London.

Mr Gary Fawcett for the mother; Mr J. R. Burnfield for the father.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that the judge had expressed his opinion of the mother in unusually explicit language in another earlier judgment which concerned the mother's appli-

cation for an outer injunction. Whether or not his mind was affected by his unsatisfactory view of the mother, the court felt that the custody issue had not been dealt with properly.

Another worrying aspect of the case was that no fewer than three court welfare officers had become involved. Primarily, the welfare officer was a Mrs Gonzalez who had been supervising the child fortnightly for a year. She and another court welfare officer made reports which, although sympathetic to the father, indicated that the mother was coping satisfactorily with the child and that there was no basis for removing the child from the mother.

The father was dissatisfied. He felt that the court welfare officers were biased in the mother's favour. An application was made on his behalf for the introduction of an independent social worker into the case. The judge ordered that a report be prepared by an independent social worker. He further ordered that a welfare report on the child be prepared by another court welfare officer, who was the third to be involved.

He submitted a report which was consistent with those made by the other two court welfare officers.

Mr Fawcett, for the mother, understandably objected to the application for an independent social worker. There was no basis for suggesting that any of the three court welfare officers were acting other than in an independent capacity. There was no justification for departing from the usual practice of relying on the reports of the court welfare officers. The case was certainly not one for the appointment of an independent social worker. To do so was wholly to misconceive the role of the court welfare officer who was appointed to help the court. It was highly doubtful whether the judge had jurisdiction to appoint anyone other than the court welfare officer.

There was no power to order the other party to be examined by an independent social worker. The mother could rightly have refused to have anything to do with the social worker but, in view of the form of the order, she had no option but to submit.

The father's solicitors had obtained the name of the social worker concerned from an

organization and given it to the judge. The mother was not asked to consent and that resulted in the father being made. It was very embarrassing because the father's solicitors instructed the social worker unilaterally. That was objectionable.

His Lordship hoped that the practice would not be repeated but, if that extraordinary step had to be followed, at the very least instructions should be given jointly by both solicitors and agreed by both parties.

The independent social worker's report tipped the scales against the mother. It was based on one interview lasting three hours. That compared with the experience of Mrs Gonzalez and the other court welfare officers who had known the mother and child for some time. The result was that, however one looked at the case, the judge's decision was arrived at in an entirely unsatisfactory way. The only course was to order a re-hearing of the case.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER and Mr Justice PURCHAS agreed.

Solicitors: Coffin Mew & Co, Fareham; Cousins, Burbridge & Connor, Portsmouth.

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CIGARS AND BAR SUNDRIES
Cat. (4 illus.) £2.50

This property of the Bath Club by order of the liquidator
Bernard Phillips Esq., F.C.S. and the property of a West
End Hotel Cat. £1

Thursday 15th October at 11 am
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Cat. (4 illus.) £2.50

Tuesday 20th October at 10.30 am and 2 pm
BONDS AND OLD SECURITIES
Cat. (15 illus.) £1

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Wednesday 14th October at 2.30 pm and following days
DECORATIVE WORKS OF ART Cat. 75p

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Tuesday 20th October at 11 am
FINE VICTORIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS
AND WATERCOLOURS
Cat. (254 illus.) £25

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Sotheby's in Sussex
Tel: (07983) 3831

This week, Tuesday and Wednesday
FURNITURE, BRONZES, CLOCKS, SILVER
AND JEWELLERY
Wednesday 21st October at 10.30 am and 2 pm
PAINTINGS, TOYS AND DOLLS
Cat. £1

Chester, Cheshire
Sotheby's Chester
Tel: (0244) 315331

This week, Thursday
ORIENTAL CERAMICS AND FURNITURE
Wednesday 21st October at 11 am and 2.30 pm
PRINTED BOOKS Cat. £1.50

Thursday 22nd October at 11.30 am and 2.30 pm
GOOD 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY FURNITURE,
BRONZES, EASTERN RUGS AND CARPETS,
CLOCKS, BAROMETERS AND WATCHES
Cat. £1.50

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Sotheby's Torquay Tel: (0803) 26277

This week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
BOOKS AND PICTURES

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Sotheby's Mak van Waay B.V., 102 Rokin,
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Tuesday 20th October and following 8 weekdays at 10.30 am
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Applications giving full educational, career and personal details should be addressed to the Personnel Manager, The Law Society, 113, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL, to arrive not later than the 23rd October, 1981.

Phillips

Tuesday, 13 October, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART
Tuesday, 13 October, 1.30 p.m.
ANTIQUE AND MODERN JEWELLERY
Wednesday, 14 October, 11 a.m.
ORIENTAL CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART
Wednesday, 14 October, 12 noon
COLLECTORS ITEMS
Viewing: Day prior 9 a.m.-4.30 p.m. and Morning of sale until 11 a.m.
Illustrated Catalogue £1 by post
Thursday, 15 October, 11 a.m.
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DRAWINGS
Illustrated Catalogue £1.25 by post
Thursday, 15 October, 2 p.m.
SCRIPHOLOGY
Friday, 16 October, 11 a.m.
SILVER AND PLATE
Monday, 19 October, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND OBJECTS
Monday, 19 October, 11 a.m.
FINE WATERCOLOURS AND DRAWINGS
Illustrated Catalogue £3.50 by post
Tuesday, 20 October, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS, WORKS OF ART AND
FEWTER
Tuesday, 20 October, 1.30 p.m.
ANTIQUE AND MODERN JEWELLERY
Illustrated Catalogue £1 by post
Wednesday, 21 October, 11 a.m.
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AND GLASS

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also on page 22

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Catalogue £1.50.

Tuesday, 13 October at 11 a.m.
WATERCOLOURS BY MILDRED ANNE BUTLER.
Catalogue £4.

Wednesday, 14 October at 11 a.m.
FINE JEWELS. Catalogue £1.75.

Thursday, 15 October at 11 a.m.
VICTORIAN AND CONTINENTAL 19TH CENTURY
SCULPTURE, FURNITURE AND TAPESTRIES.
Catalogue £3.50.

Thursday, 15 October at 2.30 p.m.
FINE EASTERN TEXTILES, RUGS AND CARPETS.
Catalogue £2.50.

Friday, 16 October at 11 a.m.
IMPORTANT VICTORIAN PICTURES, DRAWINGS
AND WATERCOLOURS. Catalogue £6.50.

Monday, 19 October at 11 a.m.
ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL CERAMICS.
Catalogue £1.75.

Tuesday, 20 October at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
ENGLISH DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS.
Catalogue £2.75.

Tuesday, 20 October at 2.30 p.m. and Wednesday, 21
October at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
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AND COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS.
Catalogue £3.00.

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STONELEIGH ABBEY, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.
Thursday, 15 October and Friday, 16 October at
11 a.m. each day.
Selected Works of Art. Catalogue £4.50.

Friday, 16 October at approx 1 p.m.
Books. Catalogue £2.50.

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Wednesday, 21 October at 11 a.m.
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Wednesday, 14 October at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
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Catalogue £4.

Thursday, 15 October at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.
WINES. Catalogue £2.50.

Wednesday, 21 October at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
and Thursday, 22 October at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
IMPORTANT FURNITURE FROM THE 17TH, 18TH
AND 19TH CENTURIES, METALWORK, CLOCKS,
SCULPTURE, OBJECTS OF ART, SCIENTIFIC AND
NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS. Catalogue £3.50.

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At the Palazzo Massimo Lancellotti.

Thursday, 15 October at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.
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CENTURY. COINS OF THE TWO SICILIES AND
IMPORTANT PAPER MEDALS. Catalogue £2.

Tuesday, 20 October at 4 p.m.
FURNITURE, OBJECTS OF ART AND BRONZES.
Catalogue £2.

Wednesday, 21 October at 9 p.m.
JEWELS AND CLOCKS. Catalogue £2.

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